

111 9



This Heav'n-aspiring Tree's ch' Imperiall State,
Whose Branches, shaken by the Hand of Fate,
Let fall their tip'ned Monarchs, which appear
The same in *Fate*, as on their *Thrones* they were;
Herodian observ'd, and having tooke
Their sev'ral Lives, doe weighs them with his Booke;
Hee findes them waight; Then recommends their *Story*
To *Fame*; *Fames* *Trumper* sounds their *Shame*; their *Glory*.



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To *Fame*; *Fame's* *Trumper* sounds their *Shame*; their *Glory*.



Prodician's Fall Histo



London printed for Hen. Dunton and are to be sold
in shop in S^t. Dunstons Churchyard Fleetstreet 1697

23647



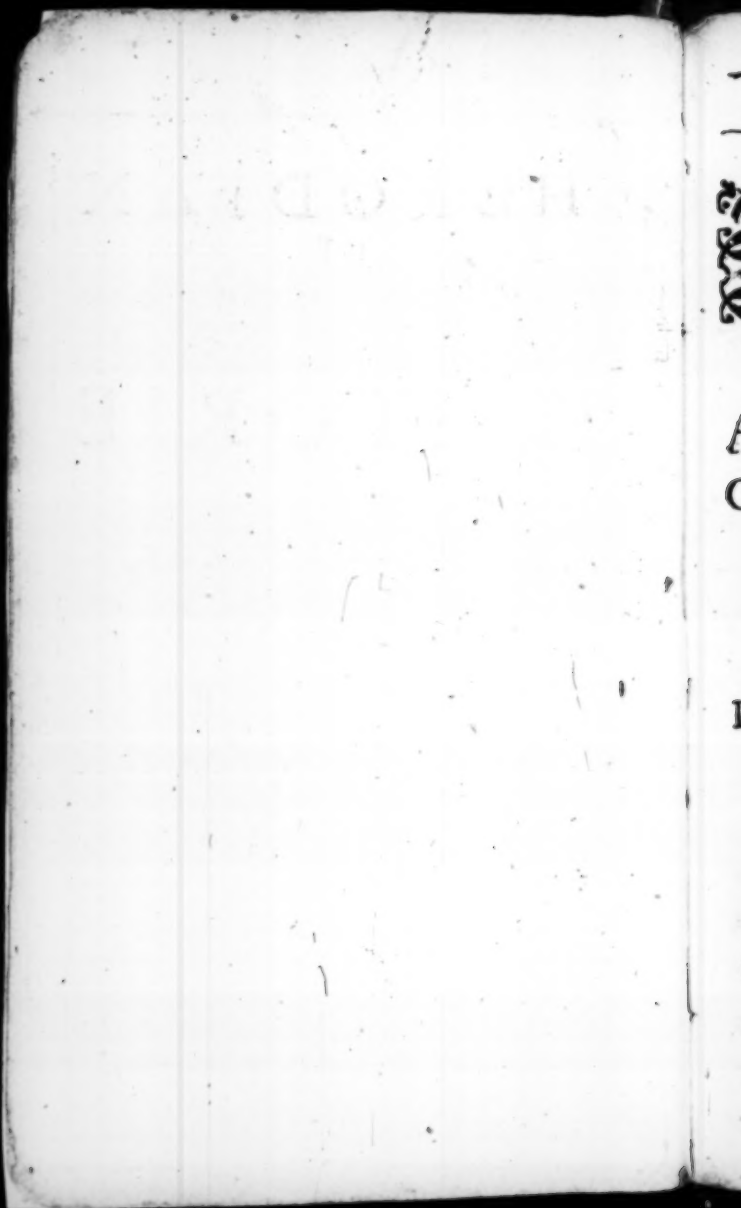
HERODIAN
OF
ALEXANDRIA
His
HISTORIE
OF TWENTY
ROMAN Cæsars,
and EMPERORS
(of his time.)

Together with the most
Solemne Deification of
the Roman Emperors
and Empresses.

Interpreted out of the Greeke Originall.

LONDON,
Printed for Henry Taunton, and are to
bee sold at his shop in S^t Dunstons
Churchyard in Fleetstreet. 1635.

23047. J. D.





THE
APPROBATION
OF THIS HISTORIE,
by divers
Authors of Eminent
place and esteeme.

PHOTIVS the Patriarke, in the
99. Chapter of his Greeke
Bibliotheke.

HERODIAN neither
swells with Superflui-
tie, nor omits ought that is
Necessarie: In a word, hee
is not inferiour to any, * for
all Historicall perfections.

ἡ ἱστορία
ταύτη
ἐστὶν ἡ ἀρι-
στήτη ἀπο-
ταύτη

The Approbation.

HENRY STEPHAN in his Latine Dedicatorie Epistle to Sir *Philip Sidney* (of glorious memory) prefixt before *Herodsians Greeke Historie.*

* *Nosſit
Temporis
Aulicis.*

THE reading of HERODIAN'S Historicall Worke, will bee a matter of ſingular profit, and pleaſure to the * Courtiers of this Age; for hee represents (as in a glaſſe) the Emperours of that age, and their Courts; with their Comedies, Tragedies, and Trage-comedies. It is moſt certaine, that hee was both an Eye-witneſſe, and an Eare-witneſſe of many things which he writ. No Roman Hi-

The Approbation.

Historie did ever comprize
such * wonderfull changes hap-<sup>* Tam mi-
rabiles ut-
cissitudines.</sup>
ning in the *Romane Empire*,
in so small a circle of time.

POLITIAN in his Epistle to
Pope INNOCENT the 8.

HAVING bethought my
selfe which of all the
Historians I should translate
(according to your H. Com-
mand) I resolved at last on
HERODIAN that * excellent<sup>* Excellens
rerum scrip-
tor, & qui
diu in Pala-
tia versa-
tus Aula; af-
fectuq; iam
seratis, histo-
riam de suis
republicis
componere
aggessit,</sup>
Writer, who having long con-
tinued in the Emperors Court,
and being very aged, under-
tooke to write the History of
his Time: which he hath per-
formed, not onely eloquenty,
but with all most frankly and

The Approbation.

faithfully. Your Holinesse
shall finde in him great varie-
ty of Persons and Actions,
many strange things, and fre-
quent Examples of Fortune,
**Vacillantis* *reeling (as it were) some-
time one way, sometime
another: as also wonderfull
wise Counsell, accompany-
ed with unexpected Events;
and sage Precepts, delivered
in a Stile full of Mijesty and
Sweetenesse: lastly, a very
Magazin of Morality; and
(as it were) a Mirrour of hu-
mane Fate: whence all men
may select choice Documents
conducing to the Weale and
advancement of a private and
publick Estate..

The Approbation.

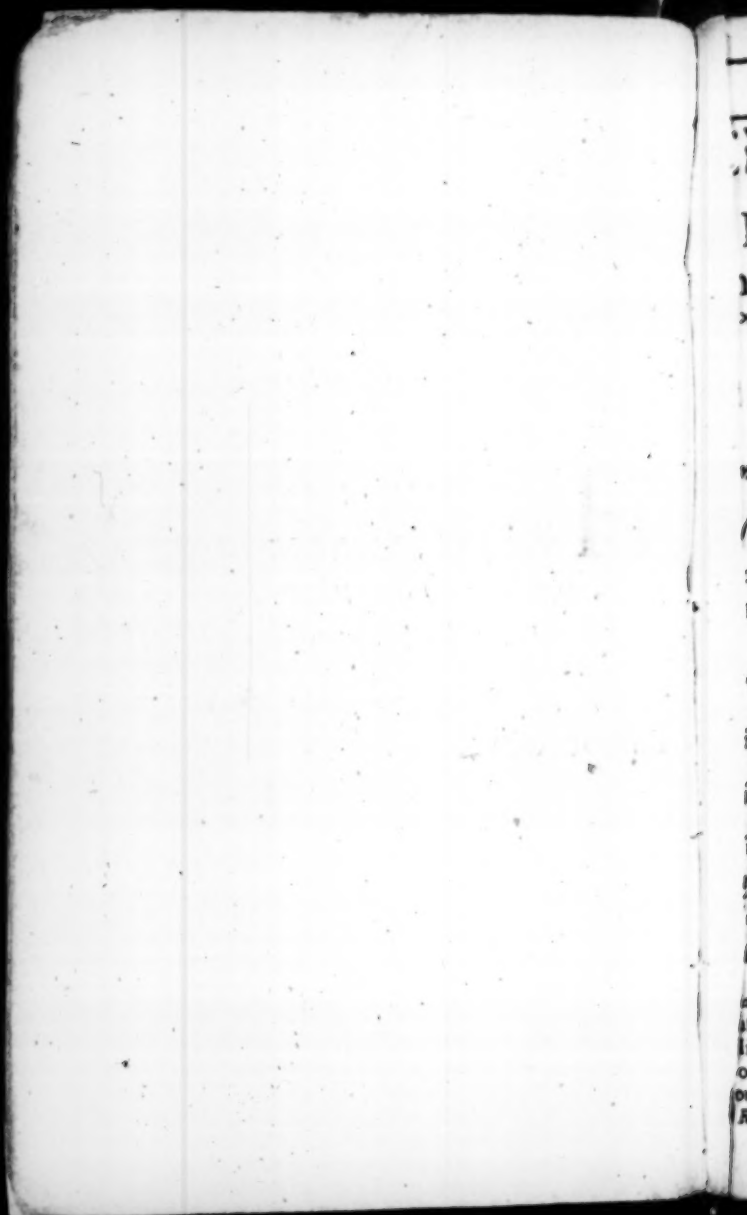
M. D. WHEAR, the publicke
Professour of History in the
most noble Vniversity of
* Oxford, in his Booke,
*De Ratione & Methodo legendi
Historias. pag. 35.*

HERODIAN, a most po-
lite and judicious Au-
thor, hath with singular Elo-
quence described the Acts and
Lives of many Cæsars and
Emperours.

* Quam
semper a-
maram,
semper ho-
noratam (sic
Dixi voluissis)
habebo.

A 5

THE



THE NAMES OF the Romane *Cæsars* and

* Emperours, whose Acts
and Lives are recorded
by HERODIAN.

no Dom. 163.

1. *Arcus Aurelius* } The two
* *Antoninus*, } first Cōsorts
ius Verus his son } in the Ro-
n law. } man Empire

2. * *Commodus*.

3. * *Pertinax*.

4. *Julian*.

5.

iger, } *Asia*,
everus, } in } *Italy*,
binus. } } *Britanie*, } at once.

6. Journall, pag. 271. * So called because hee pertinaciously
refused to accept the Empire offered him by the Senate. Xth time.
His Triumphall Arch is yet extant at *Rome*. No marvel it three
good for the Empire; for (once) there were thirty Princes elected
one time, by severall Armies (*Zenobia* was one of them.) V^{id} Bed.
Rep. l. 6. c. 5. & P. Mexia in Galien.

* Their gold,
silver, and
copper Coine,
(with their I.
images and In-
scriptions) are
in the custo-
dy of that
noble Anti-
quary Sir R.C.

* There is yet
extant at *Rome*
a stately Co-
lumn erected
by him. In
his time *Brit-
taine* received
the Christian
Faith. Bede
Ecc. Hist. l. 1.

* His naked
Statue (as hee
playd the *Gla-
dia. m*) is ex-
tant at *Rome* in
the *Fernesian*
Palace. See
the Triumphe
of it in M. G.

Anto-

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THE NAMES OF the Romane *Cæsars* and

* Emperours, whose Acts
and Lives are recorded
by HERODIAN.

Anno Dom. 163.

M *Arcus Aurelius*
* *Antoninus*,
Lucius Verus his son
in law.

The two
first Cōsorts
in the Ro-
man Empire

182. * *Commodus*.

195. * *Pertinax*.

195. *Julian*.

196.

Niger, } in } *Asia*,
* *Severus*, } } *Italy*,
Albinus. } } *Britanie*, } at once.

Sandys Journall, pag. 271. * So called because hee pertinaciously

refused to accept the Empire offered him by the Senate. *Xiphiline*.

* His Triumphall Arch is yet extant at *Rome*. No marvell if three
stood for the Empire; for (once) there were thirty Princes elected
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Eccel. Hist. l. 1.
* His naked
Statue (as hee
playd the *Gla-*

dia. 91) is ex-
tant at *Rome* in
the *Farnesian*

Palace. See
the Transump-
t of it in M. G.

Anto-

The Names, &c.

Antoninus, } Brothers and
Geta, } Colleagues.

219. *Macrinus,* and
Diadumenianus Caesar (his
Sonne.)

220. *Antoninus,* or rather *Pseud-*
Antoninus

224. *Alexander.*

Maximinus.

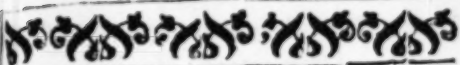
237. *Martinus.*
Gordian the Father.
Gordian the Sonne.

* In the
Greece, *Bal-*
bimus (sed in
Fastu Sæculi
& Capitolini,
Albinus.)

239. *Maximus,* } Colleagues.
* *Albinus,* }

241. *Gordian,* Nephew to the El-
der *Gordian.*

HERO-



HERODIAN HIS IMPERIALL HISTORIE.

The first Booke.

The Contents.

Herodian's Historicall faith. The rare and choice Occurrents here recorded. A brieve Character of the Emperors insuing. A Summary of the Emperor Marcus his Life and Reigne. The education of Prince Commodus. How Marcus bestowed his Daughters. His Princely Qualities. Herodian a great Statesman. Marcus misdoubts Commodus. His speech on his death-bed. Hee dies and is generally lamented. Commodus succeeds. His speech to the Army. His bad Courtiers. Pompeianus a grave Counceller. Romane Triumphs. Commodus poasteth to
 B Rome.

Rome. The Romanes dearely affect him. His Description. His Entrie into Rome. Perennius a Favourite. Lucilla, Commodus his Sister, conspires against him. Perennius his Treason. Jupiters Festivall. Romane Priests honoured. Perennius discovered and beheaded. Maternus rebells: his Plot detected. The Mother of the Gods: her Holiday; and History. The strange river that made men geld themselves. A Plague and Famine at Rome. Cleander a Favourite. His Treason. He is generally hated. He armes the Souldiers against the Commons. Fadilla detects him. He is beheaded. Commodus his Cruelty and Credulity. Strange Prodigies. Rome fired. Commodus debauched and insatuated. Liberty, a Goddesse. Commodus, an excellent Archer. Hee fights naked with Fencers before all the People. New-yeares-gifts. New-years-tide solemnly kept. Marcia, Commodus his chiefe Concubine. Philo-Commodus. Marcia and others conspire Commodus Death. Hee is poyson'd and strangled.

HERODIAN'S

Induction.

OF those which have hitherto bestowed their paines in compiling Historie, and recording the Acts of ancient Time, divers affecting the reputation of Learning, and coveting by wel-tuned language to eternize their Fame (lest by silence they should bee lost among the Vulgar) have beene more carefull to gild and embosse their Discourse, than to mine and search out the Truth: supposing (belike) though they delivered many fabulous Narrations of things done so long since, they could not easily bee controlled; and yet nevertheless, their neat and spruce Compositions should bee highly applauded.

Truth, the
Soule of
History.

Passionate
Historians
censured.

Others againe, transported with spleene against some particular People, or with hatred against Tyrants; or else too much addicted to glorifie Princes, Cities, and privat persons, have not perfectly delineated the Image of Truth.

Herodians
Historicall
Faith.

For my owne part, I have here undertaken to write such a History as is not grounded on vulgar Aires, and vaine Noy-
ses, or on the uncertaine Credit of forraigne Relations; but of such recent Occurrences as I have * faithfully and industriously collected, and cannot bee unknowne to the moderne Readers: and I doubt not, but the intelligence of so many rare and memorable Accidents, which have fallen out in so short a time, will be both usefull and delightful to After-ages. For if wee reckon

* μετὰ πᾶ-
σης ἀληθείας
ἀκριβείας.

reckon from *Augustus*, who reduced the State of the Romane Common-wealth to a Monarchy, wee shall not finde in all those two hundred yeares (for thereabouts it is to *Marcus* the Emperours Raigne) either such change-full Successions in the Empire, or such various changes and events of civill and forraigne Warres, or so many Cities of our owne and of the Barbarians conquered: beside earthquakes and pestilences, and the lives of Princes and Tyrants so strange and uncouth, that all the Records of Antiquity can hardly parallel: some whereof injoyed their Principality for a longer time, others but a very small while; yea, many of them having scarce accepted the Imperiall Title, the very same day they were elected,

The rare
and choice
Occurrences
here recorded.

A briefe
Character
of the Em-
perours en-
suing.

were likewise rejected, and de-
posed from their Imperialitie.
Whereupon, the Citie of *Rome*
having in 60 yeares more Em-
perors than for the proportion
of the time, there hapned ma-
ny variable and admirable Oc-
currences: for those Princes
which were of riper yeares,
and could manage their Affaires
with Wisedome and Iudge-
ment, did governe themselves
and their People with great ho-
nour; but the younger sort of
them, for want of Education
and Experience, ran many wilde
courses. Thus disparitie of
Yeares and Conditions, was
accompanied with diversity of
Manners and Actions. The
particulars whereof, exactly ob-
serving the Concurrence of the
severall Times and Princes, we
come now to specifye.

A

*A Summary of Marcus
his Life and Reigne.*

 He Emperour * *Marcus* * *Aurelius*.
had many Daughters,
and but two Sonnes;

whereof the younger (called *Verissimus*) dyed in his childhood;
the other, (named *Commodus*) he

The educa-
tion of
Prince
Commodus.

was very sollicitous to bring up
well: to which purpose, he sent
farre and neere for many noble
Philosophers, giving them great
pensions to traine him up in ver-
tue and learning. His Daugh-
ters, as soone as they were mar-
riageable, hee bestowed on the
best men hee could finde among
the Senators: For in the choice
of his Sonne-in-lawes, hee had
not so much respect to ancient
Nobilitie or great wealth, as
to their Excellence in all Mo-

The Em-
perors pru-
dent choice
of his Sons
in law.

His Princely
qualities

* ἡγεμὼν
ἦν

rall and Intellectual Endowments: rightly esteeming the Goods of the Minde to be the only permanent and durable Riches. Hee was indued with all Princely vertues, and of such rare and exquisite knowledge in Antiquities, that hee was not inferiour to any of the Greekes or Romanes in that kinde; witness his many wise Speeches and Writings yet extant. He was also a Prince of so sweet a temper, and debonaire behaviour towards all men, that he would give* his hand to every one that came to him, commanding his Guard to put backe none that came to see him. In a word, he was the onely Emperour that shewed himselfe a wise man, not onely in Words or Ediſis, but in Gravity and Continencie of life. Whereby it came to passe, that

that many famous Men for
 Wisedome and Learning flour-
 isht in his time. For Men are
 very apt to imitate their Princes,
 for the most part. Now what-
 soever he did in peace or warre
 remarkable, or attempted against
 the Northerne or Easterne Bar-
 barians, is already committed
 to writing by many excellent
 learned Men. But those Occur-
 rents, which all my time (after
Marcus decease) I either saw or
 heard of (most of which I knew
 experimentally, in regard I bore
 diverse * high and honourable
 offices in the State) it is now my
 Taske to relate.

* εν βασιλει-
 χαις η δη-
 μοσιαις
 και δημοσιαις.

Herodian
 an Officer
 of State.

Marcus being now weakened
 with Age, and worne out and
 spent with incessant Toyle and
 Care, suddenly fell (while hee
 was in * *Pannonia*) into a grie-
 vous discase. When he saw him-

* Now *Au-*
stria and
Hungaria.

Marcus
mildoubts
his sonne
Commodus.
* About 18.

* Seneca
calls Sensu-
ality the so-
veraigne
good of
Beasts.

Ep. 93.

* Πολυτροπος

selfe past recovery, hee was sore
afraid, lest his sonne, who was
then but * young, should in the
first heat of youth, through his
uncontrollable Imperiall power
(when hee was gone) abandon
good arts and exercises, and be-
take himselfe to drunkennes and
intemperance: for Youth is too
“ forward to shake off the yoke
“ of Discipline, and devote it
“ selfe to the bewitching blan-
“ dishments of sensual* delights.
Being also a man of * high wise-
dome, and profound judgement,
he was much terrifyed at the re-
membrance of many Princes,
which came to their sovereignty
when they were yong & youth-
full: as, of *Dionysius* the *Sicilian*
Tyrant, who was such an Epi-
cure in his Diet and manner of
living, that hee richly rewar-
ded them that could invent any
new

new kinde of pleasure: as also of *Alexanders* Successors, which were so exorbitant and irregular in their Governement, that they were a great blemish and dishonour to the Empire. For

* *Ptolomey* so shamefully exceeded the boundes of modesty, * See *Infia*
lib. 24.

that contrary to the lawes of the *Macedons*, and all the *Greekes*, hee made love to his owne Sister. And *Antigonus*, who would needes personate *Bacchus*; in stead of the *Macedonian* Coronet and Diadem, did usually weare a Wreath of *Ivie*, and carry a

* speare drest with green boughs * *Thyrus.* in stead of a Scepter. The good

Emperour was also much troubled with the late Examples of

* *Nero*, who slew his owne mother, and made himselfe the scoffe of the *Vulgar*; and of *Domitian*, who was a most horri- * In him
the *Cesare-*
as Line
failed.

ble

ble cruell Monster. Revolving therefore in his minde, these Images of Tyranny, hee was grievously tossed twixt Hope and Feare. Moreover, he much distrusted the bordering *German* Nation, which (yet) he had not wholly at his Devotion, but partly had Confederated, partly Conquered: whereof many (notwithstanding) had withdrawn themselves from his Obedience, and were onely held in awé with the presence of the Prince. He was therefore in great doubt, lest despising his sonnes Minority, they would presently fall to rebellion; it being the usual guise of Barbarians, to raise Tumults upon the least Occasion. In these perplexities, hee commands his Kinsmen and principall Lords that werethere, to come unto him; who being assem-

assembled, hee sets the young Prince before them, and lifting up himself a little on his Couch, makes this Speech unto them.

The Emperour *Marcus* his
Speech on his Death-bed.

IT is no mervell, if you bemoane
and lament my present Case; for
men are led by Nature, to compas-
sionate their Kinsmens miseries: and
those dolesfull things which we see be-
fore our eyes, doe most excite our ^{Objecti} presentia
commiseration. But betweene you ^{movent po-} tentiam.
and me there is a more speciall bond:
for knowing how dearly I have lo-
ved and respected you, I may justly
challenge your love againe. And now
is the fittest * season for me to judge, * *καὶ πότε αὖ-*
whether I have deservedly honored *καὶ πότε*.
you thus long, and taken all occasions
to preferre you; and for you to shew
your selves gratefull and mindefull
of

of those Innoblements. You see here
my sonne (your Pupill) is now en-
tring the Aprill of his Age; and
withall, into such broken Seas, and
surging Waves of businesse, that if
hee have not good Pilots, hee may
soone, by mis-governement, steere a
wrong course, and make shipwracke
of his Fortunes. Be you therefore as
so many Fathers unto him, by your
grave Counsells and Instructions.

"For no Treasure in the World can

"so assure a Prince, nor the strong-

"est Guard so well preserve him, as

"the Good-will and love of his Sub-

"jects. The way to raigne long

"and securely, is not to purchase

"Feare by Cruelty, but to winne

"Love by Mildnesse and Clemency.

For they are the best servants

to their Sovereigne, and furthest

from Icalousie and Flatterie, not

which are compelled by necessity, but

which are gently led by their own

loving

—peragit
tranquilla
potestas
Quid vio-
lenta nequit.

loving inclinations, nor will they ever stand out in any thing hee shall require of them, unlesse they bee unjustly and violently oppressed. And it is a poynt of great difficulty, for a Prince, that may live as licentious as he list, to moderate himselfe, and bridle his owne appetite. Wherefore if you by your prudent Admonitions shall plant in him a care to live well, and often remember him of what he hath now heard, you shall render him a worthy Prince both to your selves, and others; and you shall (thereby) propagate my memory; which this only way you may make immortall.

No sooner had MARCVS ended his Speech, but hee swooned, and became speechlesse; being so sicke and heart-sunke, that hee fell backe into his bed. Which lamentable sight, so moved all there present, that many
of

Marcus dies

** April. 17.*

An. Dom.

181.

Ætat. 39.

And is ge-
nerally be-
wayled.

of them cryed out, as they were distracted. But hee lived onely a day and a night longer, and then * deceased: leaving to the present Age, an infinite love to his Majestie, and to the future, an everlasting memoriall of his Vertue. As soone as his death was made knowne, it is incredible what weeping and wailing there was in the Armie, and among all the Communalty: yea there was no nation throughout the Romane Empire, but with many teares receiv'd the message, and deplor'd their incomparable losse in him: some calling him their good Father; others, their good Emperour: some their most valorous Commander; Others, their vertuous and temperate Prince. Nor indeed, were any of them deceived in him. Some few dayes after

ter the celebration of his Funerall, it was thought fit by the Lords, to present the young Prince to the Army, that hee might speak to them, and (as the manner of new Emperors was) bestow a Largeesse of money upon them, to *presse* them (as it were) to his Love and Service. Proclamation therefore was presently made, that all the Army should assemble together: which done, *Commodus* comes foorth, *Commodus succeeds.* and having sacrificed to the Gods, ascends a high Throne erected in the midst of the camp; where, being accompanied with his Fathers Kinsmen and Counsellours, which were very many, and excellent learned men, hee speakes to this effect.

Commo-

Commodus his Speech to
the Army.

I Make no doubt, but both you and I are alike sorrowfull for our late Calamitie; and that you are no lesse griev'd than my selfe. In my Fathers time, I never bore my selfe among you as your Superiour: for he loved us all, as if we had been all one; and did more willingly call me Fellow-souldier, than Sonne: esteeming this, to note a participation of Nature; that, of Valour: yea, when I was an Infant, he would oft carry me in his armes, and deliver me into your hands, recommending mee (as it were) to your tutelage and fidelity. I am in good hope therefore of all your loves, seeing the elder sort of you may repute me for your foster-childe, and my equalls I may well terme my Schoolefellowes in armes;

so dearely did my Father love us all,
 as if we had beene but one; being
 carefull to traine us up in all kind of
 Vertuous exercises. And now after
 him, hath Fortune * made me your
 Prince, not by faction (as some of my
 Predecessors) nor by usurpation. For
 I onely was borne and bred in the
 Court, and as soone as I came into the
 world, was received not into a privat
 cradle, but vested in Imperiall pur-
 ple: so that at the same instant, the
 Sunne saw me a Man and a Prince.
 Which, if you duely consider, you will
 love me not as a Dative, but a Na-
 tive Emperour. And now that my
 Father is translated to Heaven, into
 the Society and * Consistory of the
 Gods; the Rule of the World, and
 care of humane affaires, is devolved
 unto Vs: which, what powerfull ef-
 fects, or good successe it may produce,
 rests wholly in you. For if you make
 a brave end of the Warre, and extend
 the

* The Ro-
 mane Em-
 perours
 kept the I-
 mage of
 Fortune in
 their cham-
 bers with
 great veneration.

* Hinc Por-
 phyrogeniti

* synops.

the Roman Empire to the Ocean, you shall purchase immortall honour, and crowne the Memory of our common Father; who (as you ought firmly to believe) both heares what we say, and sees what we doe. How happy then are wee, that shall have such a Witnesse of our worthy Acts. And whereas the Honourable Services which you performed hitherto, with such prosperous successe, may bee attributed to his Providence and Governance; your magnanimous Achievements under mee your Young Prince, will purchase you a peculiar Trophie, and most noble Testimony of Loyalty and Valour. Thus shall you procure to my tender Age a glorious esteeme, by your valiant Exploits; and the Barbarians being curb'd in the beginning of our Reigne, shall for the present not dare to insult, in contempt of our Minoritie; and being terrifyed with their

their owne harmes, shall ever here-
after stand in awe of Vs.

Having thus sayd, and assured
the Souldiers by a Magnificent
Donative of Mony, he returned
to his Palace. For a short time,
he was in all thing directed by
his Fathers Friends, who daily
assisted him with their prudent
Counsels, permitting him only
so much recreation, as was con-
ducible to his health. But after
a while, divers of his * Court * *πῖνες ὧν*
winding themselves into favour, *ὁμῶς τ' αὐ-*
sought by all meanes possible *λῆσιν.*
to corrupt this hopefull young
Prince. These fawning Para- *Bad Cour-*
sites, placing their felicitie in *tiers.*
Belly-cheere, * and brutish lusts, ** In Ventre*
did esloones put him in minde *& Ventre.*
of the Delices of Rome, some-
time recounting to him what
brave things were there to bee
scene

*The greatest River
(after *Nilus*) in all
the Roman
Empire *Au-
Gel.* (è *Sa-
lust.*)

scene and heard; otherwhile,
extolling the great plenty and
abundance of all things there.
Further, they shewed how in-
commodious it was, to reside
on the bankes of * *Ister*, which
were both barren & unfruitfull,
and perpetually subject to Cold
and Raine. Will your Majesty
(sayd they) still drinke such fro-
zen and muddy waters; while
others enjoy the warme Bathes,
coole Rivers, and dainty Aire
of *Italy*? With these, and the
like sugred Allectives, they in-
flam'd the young Emperor with
the love of Pleasures. Where-
upon calling his Councell toge-
ther, he told them he had a great
desire to see his Native Coun-
trei: but being loth to shew
the Reason of that sudden reso-
lution, hee said hee was afraid,
lest some of the chiefe Nobles
should

should seize the Imperial Palace
 at *Rome*, which being a strong
 Castle, he might easily of the
 * Trainee-bands and others, raise * επιλέκ-
 a great Armie, and proclaime των νεανίων
 himselfe Emperour. They hea-
 ring him alledge these Unbra-
 ges, in great feare and amaze-
 ment lookt on the earth, and
 knew not what to say: at last,
Pompeianus the most ancient of *Pompeianus*
 all, who might best speake, be- a grave
 cause of his affiaity, having mar- Stateisman.
 ried *Commodus* eldest sister, said.

Pompeianus his Speech.

MY deare Soveraigne, it is no
 marvel if you long to see your
 Countrey: for there is in all of us a
 vehement desire to be at home; but
 yet we checke it notwithstanding, be-
 cause the Busines in hand doth much
 more import us: those domestick con-
 tents may with more security hereaf-
 ter

* *Vbi Imperator, ibi Roma.*

* *In the Romane Triumphs, The Captives went before the triumphant Charriot. Vid. S. Amb. Ser. 62. de Pentecoste.*

ter be injured. As for * Rome, it is there, where the Emperour is. But if wee abruptly breake off the Warre, it will be both dishonorable and dangerous : for so we shall animate the Barbarians, who may thinke that we dismarched for feare of them, rather than any other respect. Now if your Imperiall Majesty will proceede in your Conquests, and extend this North part of your Empire unto the Ocean, in what a glorious Triumph may you enter the City, with the chained and captived Kings and Princes of the Barbarians * before you ? For thus the Romanes in ancient Heroicall times, attained so great renowne. Feare not therefore any domesticke Vsurpers : For the prime Senators are here with you, and all the Military Forces are here ready to defend you. Besides, here is all the Imperiall Treasure. Lastly, the memory of your Father hath confirmed

firm'd to you, the eternall Love and
Loyaltie of all Estates.

This strong Disswative of
Pompeianus, did (for a while)
somewhat abate the edge of the
young Emperour, who rever-
ring his words, and having no-
thing to reply with his Honour,
dismiss'd the Lords, saying, hee
would better consider of it.
But his Courtiers still pressing
him with continuall importuni-
ty, hee advis'd no further with
his Councell, but instantly sent
Letters to *Rome*, and comman-
ded all to prepare for the Jour-
ney, giving order to certaine
Troopes to guard the Banks of
Ister, and keepe off the Ba-
barians Incursions. They having
received their Charge, did soon
subdue many of them; and o-
thers, by rewards they wonne

C

unto

*τὸ βάρβα-
ρον φιλο-
χρήματων.

unto them : which they might easily doe : for the Barbarians being naturally greedy of * cash; and not caring what dangerous Adventures they undertooke, liv'd altogether by spoyling and forraging ; or by selling Peace at a deare rate : which *Commodus* well knowing , and having a huge Masse of Treasure ; to the end to leave all things in security , gave them whatsoever they demanded.

As soone as it was proclaymed through the Army , that they must all goe home , there was a mighty hurly-burly in the Campe, every man desiring to quit the Enemies Countrey, and to taste the Delights of the Citie. And when it was certainly knowne at *Rome*, that the *Prince* would come , all the *Romane* People were ravisht with
Ioy,

Ioy, every one conceiving excellent hopes of their young Emperour, and firmly believing hee would tread in his Fathers steps.

He presently tooke his Journey with high speed, posting in youthfull bravery in his Chariot through every Citie, (as he passed) being Royally received, and entertained, with great Magnificence, and generall Applause: But when he drew neer to Rome, all the Romane Peers and Commons (every one striving to be formost) went out to meet him with * Laurels in their hand, and all kind of Flowers, (as the Season afforded) to welcome their Noble young PRINCE: whom (in truth) they loved most dearly and cordially; in regard hee was borne and bred among
 C 2 them,

Commodus
posteth to
Rome.

* Δαφνίσ-
τοι.

The Ro-
mans dear-
ly affect
him.

* ἀξιοδία-
της.

His De-
scription.

* πρὸς τὸν αἶ-
μα.

them, being of the most No-
ble and Imperiall Blood, from
three descents. For by his Fa-
ther, hee was descended from
the most Honourable Senators:
and his Mother *Fanflina*, the
Empresse, daughter to *Antonius*
Pius, and Neece (by the Mo-
thers side) to the Emperour
Adrian, derived his Pedegree
from *Trajan* her Great Grand-
father. Thus Nobly descended
was *Commodus*, who was not
only * conspicuous for his
youthfull Prime, but also for
his lovely Feature; being of a
fine Constitution of body, of
an amiable and Majestique Pre-
sence, bright and * sparkling
Eyes, yellow and curled Locks,
insomuch, that when he walked
in the Sunne, his Haire would
glister like Flames of Fire,
which made many suppose it
was

No- was powdred with Gold. O-
 om- thers conceited, it was a signe
 Fa- of some divine Excellence,
 om- and that hee had that glistering
 ors: Lustre (on his head) from his
 the birth. Moreover the silken
 pius downe of his Cheekes began
 Mo- to blossom, and bud forth like
 our Roses in the Spring. This hope-
 ree- ful and Illustrious Emperour
 nd- did the Romanes congratulate
 ed- with passing hearty and affecti-
 or- onate Acclamations, strowing
 his all the way before him with
 or Flowers and Garlands. Having
 f a made his entry into the Citie,
 of hee went first to the Temple of
 re- *Iupiter*, and then to the Fanes of
 ng the other Gods: Lastly, having
 s, solemnly thanked the Senators
 ed and Pretorian souldiers, for
 ld their singular fidelity, hee repo-
 , sed himselfe in the * Imperiall
 it Palace.

His Entrie
into Rome.

* Built on
Mount Pa-
latine, o-
therwise
called Pa-
latium. See
Aur. l. Vi-
flor. de O-
rig. Gent.
Rom.

Perennius a
Favourite.

For some few yeares hee gave all due honour and regard to his fathers friends, being content to be ruled by them in all matters of weight. But afterwards committing the Governement of the Empire to others, hee made *Perennius* an Italian (a good Souldier) Captaine of the Pretorian Bands : who suffering the young Emperour to follow his Pleasures, and wallow in all manner of sensuality, undertooke all the Affaires of the Empire, and (in effect) ruled alone. The man was insatiably covetous, for being never content with what he had, hee still gaped for more. Yea, it was his daily practice to calumniate the ancient Counsellours of the Emperours Father, and to bring within compasse of Misprision, the most Wealthy and Noble Per-

Persons, that the young Prince being by false feares and feigned surmises induced to put them to death, their Goods and Estates might be confiscate to his use. Yet for a while, was the Prince more temperable, out of respect to his Fathers memory, and his Counsellours Gravitie: but by the malignity of Fortune, that good Temper and Disposition was soone altered and perverted. The occasion was this.

Lucilla, *Commodus* eldest Sister, *Lucilla,*
 was first wedded to *Lucius Ver-* *Commodus*
rus, whom *Marcus* had associated in the Imperiall Govern- his Sister.
 ment, having obliged him in the strongest bond of love, by bestowing his Daughter upon him. After *Lucius* decease, she still retayning her former State and Dignity, was by her Father affianced to *Pompeianus*, and

*Crispina the
Empresse.*

*Lucilla and
others con-
spire against
Commodus.*

permitted by *Commodus* to enjoy the same Honours. For as an Empresse she had her Chaire of State erected on the Theater, and Fire likewise (after the usual manner) carryed before her. But when *Commodus* had married *Crispina*, who then as the PRINCE's Wife, was to have precedence, *Lucilla* stormed at it, and interpreting the others Honour to be her Disgrace, yet durst not impart her Designe (of surprizing the Empire) to her husband *Pompeianus*, because shee knew hee loved *Commodus* intirely: Howbeit, opening her mind to a Noble yong Gallant, called *Quadratus*, with whom shee was suspected to play the Adulteresse, she grievously complained to him of the indignity, and at last perswaded him to such a Course, as was pernicious

ous to himselfe, and all the Senatours. For among others of the Nobility which were of that Conspiracie, there was one *Quintianus* a bold and desperate youth, whom he inveagled, and suborned to watch some fit opportunity to kill *Commodus* with a * Stiletto (which hee might ^{* ἐγχεῖν δ' ἴον.} hide in his bosome) which done, he undertooke to salve the matter with Money.

Shortly after, *Quintianus* standing in a blinde corner in the Entrie to the Amphitheater, as *Commodus* passed by, offered to stab him; proclayming aloud, that the Senate sent him that: which as soone as he had spoken, intending to follow his thrust, hee was seized by the Guard, and received condigne punishment for his Madnesse: the Emperours Safetie beeing

The Conspiracie detected.

wrought by his owne discovery. This was the prime and maine Ground of the Princes hatred against the Nobility. For his Mind was so deeply wounded with those words, that hee tooke them all for his capitall Enemies, and could never forget the speech of the youth which assailed him.

The Con-
spirators
executed.

Perennius laying hold of this occasion, counselled him to root out all the chiefe Nobles and Gallants, whose Estates being confiscate and given him, hee suddenly grew to infinit wealth. For himselfe sitting as Iudge, *Commodus* his owne Sister, and all that had a hand in that Conspiracie, or were but lightly suspected for it, were put to death.

Thus *Perennius* having made away those whom the Emperor feared

feared (which indeed did beare a Paternall Affection to him) tooke him into his owne tuition: and now being in the height of Authority, hee cast about how to usurpe the Empire: to which end, hee perswaded *Commodus*, that his Sonnes (which were (yet) but youths) might bee made Commanders of the Imperiall Forces in * *Illyria*. Whereupon he provides a mighty masse of Treasure to winne the good wills of the Pretorian Souldiers. The Sonnes also secretly levied great numbers of Souldiers, that as soone as their Father had slaine *Commodus*, they might invade the Princesdome.

Perennius
his treason.

* After called *Dalmatia*, now *Sclavonia*.

This Treason was strangely detected in this manner.

The Romans use to celebrate a sacred Agon or Pageant in honour of *Iupiter Capitolinus*, to which

The Royall Festivall of *Iupiter*.

which there is extraordinary resort of people, as is usuall at the Solemnities of that royall

* βασιλίδου *
πόλιν.

Honour of
Romane
Priests.

Citie. Now it is the custome for the Emperour also to bee there present and President, together with the Priests, which yearly waite in their courses. The Emperour being set in his Throne to heare those famous Actors, and the Theater full of spectators (which with singular decency * were seated according to their Degrees) before any thing was said or acted on the Stage, suddenly there starts out one, in a Philosophers habit, wi ha staffe in his hand, and a Scrip on his shoulder, (halfe naked) who running to the midst of the Stage, stood still, and beckening with his hand for silence, said; *This, O Commodus, is no time for sports,*

Perennis
discovered.

shewes,

Shewes, or Festivals : Perennius his Sword hangs over your Head, and if you doe not speedily avoid the present danger, you are undone : That same Man there hath raysted both Men and Money against you, and his Sonnes likewise sollicite the Illyrian Armie : whom if you doe not instantly prevent, you are a dead man.

The fellow having thus said, whether moved thereto by some Divine Instinct ; or to purchase himselfe a Name (being an obscure Plebeian) or because hee hoped to attaine some great Reward of the Prince for his discovery, certainly *Commodus* was mightily astonisht. Others, though they beleevd it might be true ; yet they seemed not to credit it. *Perennius* commands him to bee apprehended, and as a seditious franticke

ticke to bee burned. Thus suffered hee for his mis-timed boldnesse. Howbeit, divers that made semblance to regard the Emperours safetie, and bore *Perennius* upon the spleene, for his intolerable haughty and disdainfull carriage, taking this occasion, spared not to accuse him: in so much, that *Commodus* (thereby) evaded mischiese, and *Perennius* with his children smarted for it. Soone after there came * Souldiers unknowne to *Perennius* sonne, and brought coines stamped with his Image, which they secretly shewed to *Commodus*, (unawares to *Perennius* though hee were Præfect :) and detected all the Treason: for which service they were exceeding richly rewarded. Whereupon the next night the Emperour sent for

* They were British Souldiers (as our writers say)

Peren-

Perennius his head, who little *Perennius*
dreamt hee was discovered. He beheaded.
sent also Posts to his sonne ;
which by their speed prevented
the rumours of what was done
at Rome, and delivered to him
very loving Letters from the
Emperour, requiring him to
hasten forthwith to *Rome*, for
his extraordinary advancement.
The messengers also told him it
was his Fathers desire hee
should come ; but writ not
himselſe, because hee knew the
Emperours Letters were suffi-
cient. The young man utterly
ignorant of his Fathers disaster,
or of the plot against himselſe,
believed this to bee true ; and
though he were much troubled
that his designs were thus in-
terrupted, yet relying on his
Fathers puissance, (whom hee
thought to bee safe enough) hee
set

set forward on his journey, and as soone as hee arrived in *Italy*, hee was slaine by the Emperors appoyntment. This was the end of them.

Then *Commodus* made two Pretorian Præfects, supposing it not safe, to delegate so great power to any one, which being divided betwixt two, might bee the weaker and lesse dangerous. But ere long another treason broke out against him in this manner.

Maternus a
Rebell.

There was one *Maternus* a Souldier, that had committed many villanous outrages: whereupon forsaking the camp, hee associated divers Renegadoes like himselfe, and quickly rallied together a great Rabble of Roarers; wasting and spoiling Villages and Fields. Having got much booty, there resorted

sorted to him a farre greater number of Rogues, whom hee promised great rewards ; and having made them Sharers with him, hee was so followed, that now they seemed not to be a packe of Theeves , but an Host of men , or a full Armie. For they tooke great Cities, and breaking up Prisons every where , set all Prisoners and Malefactors at liberty ; which all turned Souldiers , in hope of Pillage and Impunity. Thus did they ramble over all *Gallia*, and *Spaine*, sacking and burning all the great Cities they tooke.

When *Commodus* heard this, hee sent to the Vicegerents and Governours of those Countries, very sharpe and minatory Letters , charging them with base cowardlinesse , and commanding them to levie an Ar-
mic

Maternus
aspires to
Soveraign-
ty.

mie against them. Which when those Free-booters understood, thinking those Countries but *hollow ground* for them, they disperst themselves, and flinking thorow unused By-ways, made their Rendezvous in *Italy*: where *Maternus* began now to looke big, and take more upon him: consulting with his companions, how hee might rise to bee a King. For seeing his former adventures succeeded beyond his hopes, he resolved to undertake some gallant Attempt; or (since hee had runne so great a hazard) not to die a vile and dishonourable Death. But considering withall, that hee had not Forces sufficient to give battle to *Commodus*, who was (yet) beloved of the Roman people; he resolved to try by a cunning sleight
how

how the Prætorian Band stood affected to him. And this was ^{Maternus} his plot. his plot.
his Stratagem. In the beginning of the spring, the Romans celebrate a great Anniversary Festivall to the * Mother of the * Cybele. gods, in whose honour they likewise set forth a stately shew: at what time, all the most sumptuous and precious stuffe of the Citizens, and the choicest Jewels and Singularities of the Emperors, are solemnly caried before the Image of the Goddesse; all men having liberty to revel and maske at pleasure, & to disguise themselves in the habits of what Magistrate or Officer they fancy (bee they never so great) so that a man can hardly discern the true from the counterfeit. This, *Maternus* imagined would bee a fit time to colour his treason, & to act his
Designe,

He is detected by his
fellowes
and executed.

Designe, which was, to arme himselfe and his Followers, in all points, like the Emperours Guard: whereby they might thrust in among the Speares and Halberds, as part of his traine, and suddenly dispatch him, ere any were aware. With this purpose he privily entr'd the City with a select Troope; but some of his companions disdaining that their Fellow-thiefe should become their Prince and Sovereigne, discovered all to the Emperour: whereupon before the solemnity, this king of Rakehels and his Complices, were apprehended and executed according to their demerits. *Commodus* having sacrificed and rendered thanks and supplications to the Goddesse, for his deliverance, kept her holiday with great devotion, honouring the
Shew

Shew with his owne presence, which made all the people so glad, that they celebrated the day with great joy, for the Emperours safety.

The Reason why the Romans have this Goddesse in such high veneration, I have thought good to declare out of their Histories, because it is not commonly knowne to the Greekes.

They say, that her Image was let fall by *love*, and that it is unknowne who made it, or what it is made of; and they firmly beleeve it is no humane handiworke. The tradition is, that it fell in old time from Heaven, into a Field of *Phrygia*, called *Pessinus*, by occasion of that fall of the Image (it being there first discovered.)

The History of the chiefe Roman Goddesse.

Others

Others report, that a Battell was there fought betwixt *Ilium* the Phrygian, & *Tantalus* a Lydian, the Quarrell being, either about a way, or for the stealing away of *Ganymede*: and, when they had long fought on even tearmes, and many were slaine on both sides, the Place had that name of the great Slaughter there made. There likewise they say, that while *Ganymedes* brother strove to rescue him from his Lover, he was pull'd in pieces betwixt them: but to salve the matter, it was given out, that *Iove* tooke him from them both; whereupon he had divine honour ascribed to him. In this * *Pessinus* the Phrygians in old time celebrated their *Orgia* upon the bankes of the River * *Gallus* (whence the gelded Priests of the Goddesse, are called

* See *plin.*

l. 5. c. 32.

* Of which river who-soever dranke, became so mad, that he gelded himselfe.

led *Galli*.) But when the Roman State beganne to flourish, the Oracle telling them that their Empire should continue and overtop all others, if they could get among them the Goddesse of *Pessinus*, they dispatched Embassadours into *Phrygia*, to desire the Goddesse Image, which was easily graunted them, because they alledged that they were their cousins of the whole bloud, and descended of *Aeneas* the Phrygian. When the Image was brought by Ship to the mouth of *Tyber* (which was then the only Port the Romans had) suddenly by some divine power the Ship stood still, and could not be moved with all the haling or pulling of the Romanes. At last a Vestall Nunne, that was falsely accused to have lost her Virginitie (which she had vowed

ed to keepe inviolate) fearing she should be condemned , besought the people to make the Goddesse *Pessinuntia* her ludge: which being admitted , she untied her Girdle , and prayed in the hearing of all , that if the Goddesse knew her to be a Virgin immaculate, she would command the Ship to remove. Then tying her Girdle to the Ship, she pulled, and it followed her: the Romans admiring both the Divinity of the Goddesse, and the virginity of the Priestesse. And thus much of the Story of the Goddesse *Pessinuntia* ; which though it bee somewhat long, yet I trust will not be unpleasing to them that are not versed in Roman Antiquities.

Commodus having escaped the Treason of *Maternus* , doubled his Guards , came seldome abroad,

broad, retired himselfe to his Houses of *Pleasure* in the Suburbs, or to his Mannours farre from the Citie, and gave over all Exercise of Imperiall Iurisdiction.

It hapned about the same time, that all *Italie* was infested with a furious Pestilence, but especially the City of *Rome*, which of it selfe was wonderfull populous, and had (besides) a great number of strangers in it; that resorted thither from all parts of the World. By reason of which Confluence, there was a strange Mortality of Men and Beasts. Then was *Commodus* perswaded by his Physicians, to retire to *Laurentum*, which had a more coole and temperat aire, and many shady groves of Lawrell (from whence it tooke the name.) For they sayd, that the

A Plague
at *Rome*.

D sweet

* Of Anti-
dotes against
the Plague,
and groves
of Bayes,
See L. S. Al-
bans Natu-
ral History,
Centur. 10.
Experiment
913. and
936.

A Famine
at Rome.

Cleander a
Favourite.

sweet smell and pleasant shade
of * Bay-trees, did much availle
against the Contragion: For
which purpose also, the Citi-
zens (by advice of Physicians)
annoynted their Eares and No-
strills with precious Ointments,
and continually used Perfumes
and sweete Odoraments, that
their senses (as they sayd) being
prepossest, the infected Ayre
might not enter, or if it did
might bee over-mastered. But
notwithstanding, the Plague still
raged, and Men and Beasts were
every where found dead, on
heapes: There was also a grie-
vous Famine in the City, upon
this occasion: One *Cleander* a
Phrygian, having been publike-
ly sold for a Slave by the com-
mon Cryer, became the Empe-
rours Page: and being bred in
the Court, grew at last into such
favour

favour with *Commodus*, that hee
 prefer'd him to great Honour
 and Authority, as first to be
 Squire of the Body, then Gentle-
 man of his Bed-chamber,
 lastly, Captaine of the Guard.
 This fellow was so puff'd up with
 pride and too much rankenesse
 of prosperity, that hee also had
 a mind to the Empire. And ha-
 ving got a huge Masse of Trea-
 sure, hee monopoliz'd and in-
 gross'd great store of Corne, His treason
 which hee had lock'd in Grana-
 ries; intending when the Citie
 was pinch'd with want, suddenly
 to winne the good wills of the
 Commons and Souldiers with
 magnificent Donatives. He also
 erected a stately * Gymnasium, * An Ac-
vity-Court.
 and a publike Bath. These were
 his bayts to catch the people.

But the Romans having long
 borne him a grudge, and hated

He is generally hated.

He armes the Soldiers against the Commons.

him for his insatiable Avarice; ~~sayd~~ that he was the only cause of their Calamities. And first they publikely traduced him in the Theaters: but at last, all in generall ran to the Emperors Palace in the Suburbs, crying out against *Cleander*, and demanding Iustice upon him. All the Suburbs being in an uproare, while *Commodus* lay wantonizing in the innermost roomes, and knew not of the tumult without (for *Cleander* lookt to that) on a sudden (ere any wist) there rusht among the people the Emperors armed Horsemen; who by *Cleanders* command, wounded and overthrew all afore them. The Citizens being all Footmen, and unarmed, were not able to resist: Whereupon they fled a-maine into the Citie, but being followed by the Corners of Horse

Horſe, great numbers were ſlain and trampled under the Horſe-feet, or thronged to death: for the Lanciers purſuing them to the Gates (without any ſtay) killd them outright. The Citizens which kept home, underſtanding what ſlaughter was made of their friends and neighbours, ſhut their doores, and from their Houſe-tops threwe Stones and Tiles at the Horſemen. And now the Commons had the better: for, not fighting hand to hand, but darting and throwing every where aloft (out of their reach) they wounded many of them, and put them to flight: ſome were ſlaine by the continuall throwing of ſtones; others were throwne to the ground by their Horſes, which ſtumbled on the Stones that lay on heapes.

Also the Bands of Foot, which were billeted in the Citie, and hated the Horse-troops, suddenly came to the aid of the Citizens. A civill Warre being thus begunne, yet durst none tell *Commodus*, for feare of *Cleander*. At last, *Fadilla* (his eldest sister) running to the Emperour (for they could not deny accesse to her) with her haire dishevild, and in mourning weeds, prostrated her selfe at his feet, and said; *Your Majesty here pursues your pleasures, and little know in what danger you are. Yet your flesh and blood are ready to be slaughterd. Your Citie of Rome, and a great part of your Armie is overthrowne; and those outrages which Barbarians would not offer, your owne servants have acted; yea they, on whom you have beaped greatest Honours, are your chiefest*

Fadilla
Commodus
his sister.

She detects
Cleander.

chiefest enemies : Cleander hath armed the Commons, and Souldiers against you ; and being hated of one sort, and loved of the other ; both sides are up in Armes, and are now killing one another, and filling the Citie with blood. And we anon shall smart for this Geere, unlesse you presently make an end of that your wicked Servant, who is the Author of all this mischief, and will instantly be your ruine. Having thus said she rent her garment and divers there present, taking heart at the words of so great a Lady, put Commodus into a terrible fright. And now fearing the instant danger, hee sends hastily for Cleander, who knew nothing of what was told the Emperour, but suspected somewhat. Being come, hee commands him to be arrested ; and having stricke off

his head, and fastned it to a Speares point, hee sent it to the Commons; to whom it was a most pleasant and welcome Spectacle.

Thus was that bloody broile extinguisht, and the fight on both sides ceased. For the Souldiers seeing him flaine, in whose quarrell they fought, feared the Emperours displeasure: for it was now apparant that hee was abused, and that what was done, was without his warrant. But the Commons were well satisfied with his death, that was the cause of all the mischiefe: And now *Cleanders* two Sonnes (all the children hee had) and all that had beene his *Flies* and *Familiars*, were murdered, to a man; whose carkasses were drag'd through the Citie in most oppro-

probrious sort , and lastly , throwne into the lakes. This was the fatall end of *Cleander*, and his Complices : Humanity (as I may say) having ambitiously shewed in one man , that as Fortune can upon small occasion , raise from low degree, to high dignity ; so in unexpected manner, She can likewise præcipitate whom shee hath advanced.

Commodus being now afraid, lest the Commons would rise, and attempt some new matter against him ; was perswaded notwithstanding by his Courtiers, to enter the Citie: where being received by the People with great Applause and Magnificence, hee reposed himselfe in the Imperiall Palace. And now having past so many sharpe Pikes, hee was jealous of

Commodus
his Cruelty
and Cre-
culty.
* *Διαβο-
λῆς.*

every one, killing first one, and then another; for hee gave credit to all * Accusations, though never so false. Moreover, hee was so enslaved to sundry sensuall pleasures, which tooke him up wholly day and night, that hee abandoned all honourable Studies and Exercises, and banisht from his Court, as infiducous Persons, all that had the least measure of Honesty or Learning. But Buffons and Debauched Miscreants, were (as his chiefe Minions) most powerfull with him. He was excessively given to Coach-races, and fighting with wild Beasts: more than became the modesty or Majesty of a Soueraigne Prince: yet his Flatterers extold him as a brave Champion, for those Feats.

*Stoiche
... ..*

At this time there appeared

in the sky divers feareful signes. Starres were seen continually in the Day-time , and blazing Comets of a huge length , hang'd (as it were) in the midst of the ayre. All sorts of Creatures contrary to kind , brought forth monstrous and deformed births. But that which most grievously afflicted the Citie for the present , and amazed them with the ominous Pre-sage, was this most hideous disaster ; that the Temple of *Peace* (the stateliest and daintiest Monument of *Rome*) was on a sudden , without any Storme or Tempest preceding (but onely a little Earth-quake) quite burnt to the ground : whether by lightning, or fire (which might burst out, by the shaking of the Earth) is uncertaine. That Temple was the richest of all other,

* *AvaDh-*
μ. 61.

Some fired.

* The Pal-
 ladium;
 the sacred
 Fire, &c.
 were in the
 Vestalls
 Charge.
L. Flav. l. 1.
c. 2.

other, because of its strength;
 being curiously adorned with
 * Donries, of Massive Gold
 and Silver: yea, every person
 of *Quality*, had stored there his
 principall treasure. But the fire
 hapning in the night, made ma-
 ny rich men poore. All there-
 fore deplor'd the publike, and
 every one his private losse.
 When the fire had consumed
 that Temple, it burned also ma-
 ny of the most beautifull build-
 ings of the Citie: among
 which was the goodly *Fane* of
Vesta; insomuch that the Image
 of * *Pallas*, which the Romans
 kept in secret and sacred venera-
 tion, and was brought (as they
 say) from *Troy* into *Italy*, was
 now first seene in publike: For
 the Vestall Virgins carried it
 through the *Sacred Streets*, and
 conveighed it into the Empe-
 rours

rous Palace. Most of the fairest *Peeces* in all the Citie, perisht in these flames, which raged many dayes together, and could not bee quenched but with sudden showers which fell: whereupon, it was wholly reputed a Celestiall Worke; all men being fully perswaded, that the fire began and ended by the Decree and Power of the gods. Divers also conjectured that the burning of the Temple of Peace was a Prognosticke of Warres to ensue: which Conceit was verified by the sequell, as in the succeeding bookes we shall declare.

The Romane Citizens being thus surrounded with direfull mis-haps (one in the necke of another) begaune to looke sowe upon *Commodus*; impugning all their miseries to his illegall

Commodus
his prodigi-
ous vanity.

legall Executions and dismall Deeds: For his Excesses were notoriously knowne to all; neither did he seeke to vaile them: being ambitious to exhibite in publike those base things which he formerly acted in secret. Yea to such drunken dotage hee was now grown, that he refused his Fathers name, cōmanding himselfe, in stead of *Commodus* the Sonne of *Marcus*, to bee stiled *Hercules* the Sonne of *Iupiter*: and accordingly he forsooke the Romane and Imperiall Habit; and in stead thereof, thrust himselfe into a Lyons skinne, and carried a great Club in his hand; and (which made him extremely ridiculous) he put on also purple *Amazonian* Robes, embroydered with Gold; expressing in one and the same Garbe, a Feminine Delicacie, and a more
than

than Masculine Austerity. This was his daily Attire. Hee gave also new names to the Moneths of the Yeare, abolishing the old, and calling them after his owne
 “ Sirnames: most whereof, re-
 ferr’d to *Hercules*, as to the most
 valorous *Herce*. Further he com-
 manded his Statuaes to be ere-
 cted in all parts of the Citie,
 and One before the Senat-house,
 in forme of an Archer ready to
 shoot; to the end his very Ima-
 ges might strike a terror into the
 beholders. But after his Death,
 the Senate tooke it away, and
 placed there the Image of “ *Li-*
ber ty. And now could not *Com-*
modus any longer containe, but
 needs must he make himsele an
 Actor in publike Shewes: pro-
 clayming that hee would with
 his owne hands kill the Wilde
 Beasts that should be presented,

“ As *Au-*
gust, *Com-*
modus:
September,
Herculeus:
December,
Amazonius

“ A God-
 desse a-
 mong the
 Romans.

and

Commodus
an excel-
lent Dar-
ter and Ar-
cher.

and likewise fight at sharpe with the bravest Sword-men. When this Strange Newes was blaz'd abroad, there flocked innumerable people out of *Italy*, and the Countries adjoyning, to see that spectacle which they never saw, nor heard of the like before. For hee was generally reputed such an excellent Marke-man, as, whatsoever he aymed at, he could hit with Dart or Arrow: and though hee had about him most expert Parrhian Archers, and Numidian Darters, yet hee farre exceeded them all.

When the day of that grand Solemnity was come, the Amphitheater was thronged with Spectatours. Now there was a Tarras set up for *Commodus*; wherein to runne round about it; and thence fight (aloft) with the Beasts, without indangering

gering his person (which shewed rather his skill in Shooting, than his Valour.) Hee slew in Chase, Buckes, Doe^s, and other horned Beasts (except Bulls) not one escaping him : But from the Tarras he darted at Lyons, Panther^s, and other of the Nobler sort of Beasts, with that rare dexterity, as that he never threw the second time, nor gave them any wound but was mortall. For when the Beast was rowzed, he presently hit it in the Head or Heart, ayming at no other part of the body ; so that as soone as it was strucke, it fell dead. For this purpose, all kinde of wilde beasts were brought farre and neere ; and then did we first see those, which before we admired in their pictures. Thus did hee (to the Amazement of all) at once both shew and slay whatsoever

soever strange beaſt was brought from *India*, *Ethiopia*, North or South; ſo ſteady and ready a hand he had at his Weapon, to the Aſtoniſhment of all men.

Once did hee ſhoore Forked Arrowes at Moreſco Eſtriges, which were wonderfull ſwift of foot, uſing their Wings as Sailes in running. Theſe did he hit ſo par in the necke, that their heads being ſtrucke off; they ranne a while * headleſſe, ſo furious was the blow.

* See the
reaſon her-
of, in that
noble L. of
S. Albans,
Nat. Hiſt.
Cent. 4.
Exp. ult.

Another time, a Panther having ſeiz'd a man (that was brought into the Liſts) with ſuch vehement ſpeed, that all made account ſhe would inſtantly teare him in pieces; he darted at her with ſuch lucky ſpeed, as that he killed the beaſt and ſaved the man, preventing the dint of her teeth, with the poynt of his
his

his Weapon. He flew also 100 Lyons with so many Darts; their bodies falling in such order, that they might easily be numbred (not one Dart miscarrying.)

These Feates of Activity, though unbecoming a Prince, yet because they were proofes of his Valour and Dexterity, were not displeasing to the people. But when hee entred the Amphitheater naked, and beganne to play the Gladiator; O it was a direfull sight to see a most nobly descended Emperour, after so many Trophies of his Father and Ancestours, not to fight like a Souldier against Barbarians, nor to arme himselfe like a Roman Prince, but to prostitute so glorious a Dignity to so sordid a profession. He easily vanquisht his Antagonists, and

Commodus
playes the
Fencer.

and attempted no further than to draw bloud; every one yielding him the Mastery; as acknowledging him rather an Emperour than a Fencer. In this mad humour he ranged so farre, as that hee purposed to forsake his Palace, and live in a Fence-Schoole: and now being weary of the Name of *Hercules*, hee assumed the Name of a famous Sword-Player, deceased. And whereas the Romanes had the Colossus or Image of the Sunne in great veneration, hee tooke the head from it, and set on another, representing his owne; inscribing in the Basis, not his Fathers Titles, or any Imperiall Stile (as he was wont) but in stead of *Germanicus* [or Conquerour of *Germanie*] The Vanquisher of a thousand Gladiators.

But

But now was it high time for him to leave his Foolery, and the Citie to bee freed from his tyrannie; which fell out in the beginning of the yeare, on that day which the Romans keepe holy to *Ianus* the most ancient *Ianus his* God of *Italy*, who entertained *Feast.* *Saturne*, expelled by his sonne *Impiter*; from whose concealement, it had the name of *Lati-um*. Wherefore to this day they first celebrate the Feast of *Saturne*, and then of *Ianus*: whose Image hath two heads; alluding to the beginning of the new, and end of the old yeare. Now whereas the Romans were wont on this prime Festivity, to congratulate each other, and *Newyer-* to send to their friends peeces *gifts.* of Gold and Silver, and divers other gifts interchangeably, in token of mutuall love and ob-
servance

fervance: and the chiefe Magistrates of the Citie vested themselves in rich Purple, in honour of that great Solemnity; *Commodus* then determin'd to issue forth, not out of the Imperiall Palace (according to the ancient custome) but out of a Fenceschoole; and to shew himselfe openly to the people, not in his Robes and Princely Purple, but armed like a Master of Defence, with a traine of Gladiators following him.

Marcia
Commodus
his Concubine.

This his determination, when hee had imparted to *Marcia* his most honoured Concubine, who as if she were his married Wife, had all the honours of Empresse, except that of FIRE; Shee fell downe on her knees, and besought him with teares, not to prophane the Majesty of the Roman Empire in that sort,
nor

nor to hazard his person among
such lewd and desperate Ruffi-
ans. But when after much in-
treary, shee saw there was no
hope of prevayling, shee went
away weeping. Then he sends
for *Latus*, the Generall of his
Armies, and *Ektus* his Cham-
berlaine, and commands them
to prepare a lodging for him
that night in the Fence-schoole,
that hee might the next mor-
ning goe from thence to sacri-
fice on that solemne Festivall,
and shew himselfe in Armes to
the Romans. They humbly
desired him to desist from that
purpose, and not to doe an act so
unworthy an Emperour: wher-
upon, in great rage hee com-
mands them out of his pre-
sence; and retiring into his
bed-chamber, to repose him-
selfe at Noone (as hee vvas
v wont

wont) he tooke his Table-book, and writ downe those which hee doomed to death that night. Among which, were *Marcia*, *Latus*, *Electus*, and a great number of Nobles, and Senators; for he was fully resolved to cut off all the ancient Councillors, and others, which were his Fathers friends; lest his blacke deeds should be checkt by their grave censures; intending to divide their Goods and Estates among the soulders & Sword-players; that the one sort might defend him, the other delight him. Having thus done, hee layd his Table booke on the Pallet, not imagining that any would enter his Chamber. Now there was a little Boy that could scarce speake; such as those, which being halfe naked, are deckt with gold and preci-

ous stones; and are the choy-
sest delights of the noblest Ro-
mans. This boy did *Commo-*
dus so extremely *love, that he ~~espoused~~
oft lay in bed with him, and
was called *Philo-Commodus*, that ^{*Philo-Com-*}
is, *Commodus* his Darling; his ^{*modus.*}
name shewing how hee loved
him. The child being full of
play, went (as hee usually did)
into the Bed-chamber (while
Commodus was bathing and re-
velling with his Minions) and
taking the Booke to play with,
went forth, and as some Divine
Power ordained, *Marcia* met
him; and catching him up in
her armes and kissing him (for
shee dearely loved him) tooke
the booke from him; fearing
lest by his childish dalliance, he
might blot out some matters of
weight. As soone as she per-
ceived it was *Commodus* owne
E han I,

Marcia
and others
conspire
the Empe-
rors death.

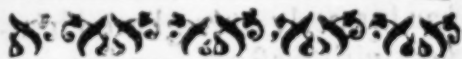
hand, shee had a great appetite to reade it, But when she found the deadly Contents, and that she before all others was to bee slaughterd, and that *Latus* and *Electus* were to follow, with such a number of noble persons, she sighed and said thus to her selfe: Is it so, *Commodus*? doe you thus reward my love? Have I deserved this at your hands, for enduring your ignoble and debauched conditions so many yeares? You shall find that a sober woman is able to dash your drunken Designs. Immediately shee sends for *Electus* (as shee was wont) in regard hee was Lord Chamberlaine; who (as it was thought) was over-familiar with her; and giving him the booke, said; See (*Electus*) what a banquet we are to have this night. He, as soone

as hee read it , being amazed
(now hee was an Egyptian
borne , a bold and daring fel-
low, and very cholericke) seald
up the booke, and sent it forth-
with by a trusty messenger to
Letus ; who being likewise
startled , instantly repaired to
Marcia , pretending hee was to
speake with her about dressing
the Fence schoole for the Em-
perour. Vnder this colour they
resolved that now they must in-
stantly *doe* or *suffer* without de-
lay or procrastination. They
concluded to dispatch him by
poyson , which *Marcia* under-
tooke to effect very easily , in
that shee still used to give him
the first Cup , which from her
hand hee would take most kind-
ly. As soone as hee returned
from his bathes, shee presented
him a poysoned Cup of Aro-

maticall Wine. *Commodus* being exceeding thirsty with much bathing and chafing of wild beasts, quaffes it off as hee was wont. Whereupon his head being very heaue, he fell into a slumber, by reason of his vehement exercise (as was supposed.) Wherefore *Electus* and *Marcia* commanded all to bee gone and depart the Court, lest they disturbed his rest. Thus was it ever with him in his drunken fits: for when hee bathed or banquetted, hee had no set times of Repose: beingeuer distracted with severall sorts of pleasures, which still enthralled him. Having rested a while, and the poyson now working in his stomacke and belly, his head grew light, and now hee fell a vomiting extremely; either by reason hee had

Commodus
poysoned
and strang-
led.

had formerly over-glutted himselfe with feasting, and carousing (which might haply expell the poyson;) or else because he used (as Princes doe) to take some antidot to prevent poison. When he had long vomited, the conspirators fearing, lest disgorging all the poison, hee should come to himselfe, and put them all to the sword, they promised a great reward to one *Narcissus* a tall desperate youth, to strangle him as hee lay. And this was *Commodus* end, having reigned 13 yeares after his Fathers decease; the most Nobly-descended of all the Emperours before him, and the goodliest person of his time. And to speake of his dexterity in Darting, inferiour to none. But he bespurtled his life with foule Vices and ignoble Exercises, as hath bin declared.



HERODIAN
HIS IMPERIALL
HISTORIE.

The second Booke.

The Contents.

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Policie to get the Empire. Stage-Playes and Revels. Nigers Speech. He is elected Emperour, and visited by Embassadours. His Security and Error. Severus described. His strange Dreame. His deepe Policie. Hee is elected Emperour. His Speech. His Expedition to Rome. Italy surprized. Iulian amazed. Alpes. Elephants trayned. Severus his Stratagem. Iulian deserted and slaine. Severus takes the Pretorians by a train. His Speech to them. They are degraded. Hee enters Rome. Hee courts the Commons and Nobles. His warlike Preparation against Niger. Hee feares the Britans. Their Elogie. Albinus their Governour. He is declared Cæsar by Severus. Herodian writes a Historie of 70 yeares.



COMMODOVS being* slain
 (as hath beene related in
 the former booke) the
 Conspirators (carefull to con-
 ceale the Fact from the Souldi-
 ers which watched the Empe-

* In the
 Night.

rous Pallace) caused his Corps to be wrapped and wound up in a course Coverlet, and gave order to two of their trustiest Servants to carry it forth, as some voyd stuffe sent out of the Bed-chamber. They which convey- ed it away, passed easily thorow the Guards, which were either so drunke or drowsie, that they could scarce hold their Halberts; or else gave small heed to that, which (they thought) little concerned them. Thus was the Emperours Corps closely carryed out of the Court Gates, and sent (by Coach) that night to *Arlesium*.

Latus, Electus, and *Marcia*, having debated what was best to be done, resolved to give out, that he dyed suddenly of an Apoplexie; which they thought would easily bee credited, his excessive
Epicu-

Epicurisme and Intemperance being so vulgarly knowne. But their first care was, to elect for Emperour some ancient and temperate man, both for their owne safety, and that all might have a breathing time, after so bitter and wanton a Tyrannie.

After consultation, they held none so fit as *Pertinax*, who was an *Italian* borne, famous for many noble acts in Peace and Warre, and renowned for many victories over the German and Easterne Barbarians; and the onely able man that was left of all those honourable persons. which *Commodus* was recommended to by his Father *Marcus*, who reposed greatest confidence in him, above all his Nobles and Commanders; whom *Commodus* either revered for his Gravitie, or spared for

Pertinax
his descrip-
tion.

his Poverty: for that also was part of his praise, that whereas hee tooke greatest paines in governing the State, yet hee was the poorest of all the Nobility. To him therefore at midnight, when all were asleepe, *Latus* and *Electus*, with a few others of that faction, addresse themselves; who finding the Gates shut, call up the Porter, who opening the Gate, and perceiving the Souldiers, and *Latus* the Generall, ran in great affright and amazement to tell his Master. *Pertinax* bids him bring them to him, saying, that now that mischiete would be-tide him, which hee had long expected. They say, that such was his undaunted spirit, that he neither forooke his bed, nor changed his countenance, but with a bold courage, and unpalled

his brave
city

palled visage, spake thus to *Læ-
tus* and *Electus* (whom he sup-
posed to bee sent to murther
him:) *This indeed is the end that
every night I have a long while
expected, being the last of all his
Fathers friends; and I have oft
wondered that Commodus was so
slow to dispatch me. Why then for-
beare yee? Doe as you are com-
manded, that I may bee rid from
continuell feare and anxietie.* *Læ-
tus* replied: *Speake no further of
these things, which are so farre be-
neath your merit: Our comming
is not for your destruction, but for
the safetie of our selves and the Ro-
man Empire. For the Tyrant is
dead, and hath his due reward, ha-
ving suffered that which hee inte-
ded to inflict on us. Our comming
therefore is to invest you in the Em-
pire, whom of all the Nobilitie we
know to be, for Vertue, Authority,*

*He's wor-
thy it.*

Aze,

*Age, and Gravity, most loved and honoured by the people; not doubting, but this our choice will be acceptable to them, and most safe for us. Pertinax answered; I am too old to be deluded in this sort. Why doe you offer to abuse me as a Coward, and so to slay me? Then said Elctus; Since you will not credit us, reade this Booke (you know Commodus his hand, having beene so long used to it) and then you shall perceive what danger wee have escaped, and that we speake not this to try you, but truly to informe you. Which when Pertinax had done, knowing them also to be his ancient friends, and understanding all the busines, hee yeelded himselfe to their dispose. First then it was thought fit to send to the Army, to know how the Souldiers would take it: but *Latus* undertooke*

tooke to get their goodwill, being their Generall, and therefore of some authority with them. Wherefore the night being farre spent, and the next day the Feast of the *New-year*, they hastned to doe all before it were day. They sent also some of their trustiest servants, to disperse the newes of *Commodus* death, and *Pertinax* his going to the Army to bee made Emperour. Which when it was divulged in the Citie, all the people in an extasie of Ioy, ran through the streets to bring the happy tydings to their friends that were of any note for wealth or worth; (for such were in greatest danger of *Commodus*.) Wherefore they ran to the Temples and Altars to give thanks to the Gods (for their deliverance.) And now some
cried

Who in
greatest
danger of
Tyrants.

cried out, the Tyrant was dead; some, the Fencer; others, worse than all this: For that which before they durst not mutter for feare, they now proclaimed with impunity. But the most part of the people posted to the Army, being much afraid, lest the ruder Souldiers accustomed (under the former Tyrannie) to ravine and spoile, would not admit for Emperour, so mild a Prince as *Pertinax*: which to the end to perswade them to, the more forcibly, they went thither in great numbers. *Latius*, *Electus*, and *Pertinax* (with the multitude) being entered the Campe, and the Souldiers called together, *Latius* spake thus.

L A E T V S

*Letus his speech to the
Army.*

Commodus our Emperor is dead
of an Apoplexy. There is no other cause of his death but himselfe: and though wee endeavoured to reclaime him to a better course of life, yet all was but lost labour: For carrying himselfe as you know hee was wont, hee hath killed himselfe with Gluttony and Drunkenness. This was his fatal destiny; for all die, not by the same meanes, but by different wayes come to their common end. But in stead of him, Wee, and the people of Rome, here bring you a man venerable for Age; Gravity, and Integrity; and of approved skill in martiall affaires, whose brave* exploits you which are Veterans, experimentally know; the rest cannot but acknowledge, that he hath these many yeares governed the Citie with singular honour and admiration. Fortune doth therefore tender you not onely a Prince, but a Parent most indulgent: *Britannicus* whose

*Letus his
speech to
the Army.*

* *pertinax
had done
honourable
service in
Britaine,
and was
therefore
surnamed*

whose government, as it will bee pleasing to your selves here present, so it must needs bee acceptable to your fellows in Armes, which guard the bankes of the Rivers, and defend the Marches of the Empire; in regard they well remember his noble acts. And now wee shall not need to win the Barbarians with money; who will be sufficiently awed with the experience of what they suffered under his victorious Armes.

Latius having thus sayd, while the Souldiers pawsed, and were demurring on the businesse; all the people with joyfull Acclamations, proclaymed *Pertinax* Emperor and Father of their Countrey. So also did the Souldiers, though not with the same Alacrity: for the Multitude being every where mixt among them who were unarmed because it was Holi-day, did after a sort constraine them to it, being but few

few (in comparison of them.)
All therfore having sworn Fealty to him, and beene present at the Sacrifice, the Souldiers and Commons with Lawrell branches in their hands, conduct him ere it was Day-light, to the Imperiall Pallace: whither being come, he was exceeding pensive. For though hee wanted neither spirit nor resolution, yet did the present action much distract and dismay him; not that he doubted so much his owne safety (for he had despised greater perills) but considering with himselfe the sudden Change of the Tyrannicall Government, and the Noble descent of some chiefe Senators; hee supposed they would not suffer the Empire to be invested in a man of a meane and obscure Familie, after an Emperour of so Princely a Linage.

nage. For though his Life was much commended for his temperate carriage, and for deeds of Armes hee were most famous; yet was hee farre exceeded in birth by many of the Senatorian Order. Wherefore as soone as it was Day-light, hee went to the Senat-house, not suffering Fire to bee carryed before him, nor admitting any other Symbol of Sovereignty, till he knew the pleasure of the Senators: but they, when they saw him, did with one accord joyfully receive him, stiling him *Augustus* and Emperor. Which high and envious Title (as he termed it) he disavowed at first, excusing himselfe, by reason of his Age, and desiring them to passe by him, and elect some of the prime Nobility, which might better beseme the Empire. Then taking

taking *Gladio* by the hand, and *Gladio* a noble Roman. pulling him forth, he placed him in the Imperiall Throne; Hee was the most Nobly descended of all the Peeres, and derived his Pedigree from *Aeneas*, sonne to *Venus* and *Anchises*, and had been twice Consul. Notwithstanding he spake thus; *I whom you judge most worthy, doe here render you this Princely honour; yea, all this noble Assembly adjudges you the Sovereigne Rule.* Whereupon *Pertinax* confirmed by the Senate. being irresistably importun'd, and almost compelled by the Senate; after much reluctance, he seated himselfe in the Chaire of Estate, and spake as followeth.

Pertinax his Speech to the
Senatours.

YOur singular Zeale, and incomparable Love, in preferring mee before so many excellent Peeres, being so farre from the least suspicion of flattery

flattery, that it is a pregnant prooffe, and cleare demonstration of your Fidelity; might haply make some other more bold and cheeresfull to accept this Offer; and to imagine, he might easily undertake so great a Charge, that should be supported with your Friendship. But these rare and high favours amaze mee with their very sublimity; at the sight whereof, I am extremely intimidated. For it is no easie matter for a man, condignely to requite great Benefits. Among Friends, if greater Courtesies bee returned, than were exhibited; not so much the Gratiuity it selfe as the Gratitude is respected. But when a mans Friend hath (first) obliged him by signall Offices; if hee shew not all vicissitudinary Expressions of a thankefull Heart, it may well bee thought to proceed rather from blockish Dulnesse, and brutish Ingratitude, than any other defect. I see therefore what a hard Taske I shall undergoe, to render my selfe worthy of this great Honour, which you have conferred upon me. For the Glory of Sovereignty
con-

consists not in a * Chaire of State, * *in ty* re-
but in such royall A ts as are well- *dispo*.
befeeeming a Prince. Looke how much
Men abhorre the Evills which are
done and past; so much more are they
apt to hope for better times. Great
Injuries are ever remembred: and Injuries
Grievances are very rarely forgot: and Bene-
but Good turnes persist as soon as they *fit*.
are done, together with their M mo-
rie. Thus are we not so sensible of the
sweetnesse of Liberty, as of the bitter-
ness of Bondage and Slavery Nor
doe men take it as a Courtisie, that
they may securely enjoy their owne;
For that, they hold, belongs to them
as their proper right: But hee that
that is spoyled of his Good: or For-
tunes, can never forget so haynous a
Wrong. Neither doe men much e-
steeme the best Change that can hap-
pen for the publike Good (for common
Benefits are little regarded of pri-
vate persons.) But if they be dam-
nified in their own particular estates,
then are they touched to the quicke.
Moreover, they which have beene u-
sed to the profuse Prodigality of Ty-
rants,

vants, if a man goe about to reduce them (when Money failes) to a more frugall and regular course, they will be ready to impute it rather to miserable basenesse, than prudent moderation: not considering, that such excessive Donatives (as heretofore) cannot bee given without Oppr. ssion and Rapine. But he that with Discretion gives to every one according to his Merit, is so farre from dispoyling others unjustly, that hee teaches all (by his Example) to bee provident Husbands. These things if you take into consideration; you will (I trust) lend me your helping hands; and assist mee in the Administration of the Empire: for seeing you are not like to live under a Tyranny, but rather an Optimisie, you have Cause to hope well, and perswade others also to the like Confidence.

Pertinax having with this speech exceedingly cheered the Senators, was with generall acclamations, and great honour and reverence, conducted to the
Tem.

Temples of *Iove* and the other Gods, where having sacrificed for his good successe in the Empire, hee went to the Imperiall Pallace.

When it was voyced, how graciously he had spoken to the Senate and written to the Commons, all men were infinitely pleased; hoping that now they should have a worthy and temperate Governour, and a Father rather than an Emperorr. For hee made an Ediēt, that the souldiers should no more wrong the Commoners, nor abuse any Passengers; intending to plant every where good order and civility. When hee went abroad, or sat in Iudicature, hee shewed what a meeke and sweet spirit hee had. And by his zealous imitation of *Marcus* his Government, he did exceedingly

pertinax
his rare government.

ly

ly content the elder sort, and attract the Affections of all, who being delivered from the cruell Thraldome of Tyranny, lived now in great peace and security.

The fame of his Princely vertues, moved the Nations, Armies, and Confederates of the Romane Empire to Deifie him. Yea, the Barbarians which had revolted, or purposed to rebell, over-awed with the Remembrance of his Militar Vertue in former times; and calling to minde his singular Integrity, Iustice, and Clemencie, did willingly submit themselves unto him. Embassadours also came from all parts, to congratulate the Romans, for so Nobly qualified an Emperour.

Embassadours.

The Pretorians Maligned him.

But that, which was such a generall Rejoicement, was much resented by the souldiers in Rome which

which were the ordinary Guard of the Emperour. For being forbidden rapine & outrage, and recalled to a civil & regular forme of life by the Emperours Edict, they reputed his mild & moderate government to tend to their great Dishonour and Disparagement: and because it bridled their licentiousnesse, they resolved not to indure it. For a while, they did but grudge and grumble at his Commands; but at last, when he had not yet raigned two months (having given pregnant hopes, in that short time, of many excellent good acts) the malignity of Fortune overthrew all, and quite dasht his noble & admirable designs for advancement of the Weale publike. For he first enacted that all the wast Ground

*Pertinax a
Father to
the Com-
mons.*

F should

should be planted and improved and freely given to them that would cultivate and manure it: to which purpose, hee granted to Husbandmen, ten yeares immunitie from all Taxes, and security from all further Trouble during his Raigne. As for the peculiar Goods of the Emperors, he permitted not his name to be stamped on them; saying, that the Propriety thereof pertayned not to the Emperour, but to the Romane State in generall. Hee released all Tolls and Imposts exacted in the time of Tyranny, at the Bankes of Rivers, Ports of Cities, High-ways, and Rodes; asserting them to their ancient Freedome. Many the like good Deeds hee intended; which shewed his firme Resolution to benefit his Subjects. He banisht Informers out
of

Informers
punisht.

of the City, and commanded them to bee punished where ever they were found, to the end none might be indangered or ruinated by their forged Criminations. Heereupon the Nobility and Cōmunaltie promised to themselves an assured happy Estate. For hee was so moderate and * fellow-like, that he would not admit his sonne, a young Youth, into the Court, but caused him to live a privat life. He frequented the publicke Schooles and Lectures, repayingr also to the usuall Places of Exercise, where hee demeaned himselfe as an ordinary man, without any Princely pompe or State.

pertinax
love to
learning.

Pertinax thus ruling with singular good order and decencie, the Prætorian Souldiers (not enduring to be restrayned any longer from their accusto-

The Prae-
torians mu-
tine.

med rapines and outrages) consulted and agreed (at a drunken Feast) to make him away (who was so great a grievance to them) and to substitute another that would impatronize their lawlesse and licentious misdemeanours. Whereupon, on a sudden, no man suspecting any tumult (for all lived in peace) in a great fury and Brutish rage they hurry at Noone-day (in a Military March) with drawne Swords, and Pikes advanced, to the Emperours Palace: where the Courtiers and Officers of State, affrighted with that sudden and unexpected Alarme, and not able (being few and unarmed) to resist so many men at Armes, forsooke their severall charges within the Verge of the Court, and fled. Howbeit, some few that were well affected

cted, told *Pertinax* of the Soldiers Mutiny ; perswading him to avoid them by flight, and to desire the peoples aid. But albeit hee knew it were a safe course to follow their counsell, yet holding it an extreme Indecorum, derogatory to Imperiall Majesty, and unworthy his former glory, to fly, or conceale himselfe ; hee resolved to affront the danger, hoping hee should perswade them, and appease their causelesse Commotion. Going therefore out of his Chamber, he met them, and askt the reason of that sudden Impression ; dissuading them, without any shew of amazement : For, composing himselfe in a grave and venerable fashion, suitable to his Princely State, without any signe of submission, feare, or intreaty, hee spake thus. F 3 *Per.*

Pertinax his speech to the
Prætorian Souldiers.

IF you take away my life, it will bee
no great matter of gaine to you, or
losse to me, being arrived to this Age,
With so much honour. For this hu-
mane life must of necessitie determine
at last. But if you, to whom the pre-
servation of your Prince is concredi-
ted, and which, by your oath, are to
guard his Person, should be the first
that marther him, and so pollute your
selves with spilling your Countrey-
mans and Emperours blood; (it were
in present) a fact most hainous; and
might prove (in future) no lesse dan-
gerous to your selves. My conscience
tels me, I have not wronged you at all.
If you are sorry for Commodus
death, it was no strange thing for a
man to die: but if you thinke hee
was made away by treason, it was none
of my fault: For you know, I was not
so much as suspected with it, but was
altogether as ignorant as your selves
of what was then done. The suspicion
(if

(if any bee) must light upon others.
 And though he be dead, yet shall you
 want nothing which is agreeable to
 reason and your estate, and not clog-
 ged with violence and ravine.

With this speech divers of
 them were perswaded, and ma-
 ny retreated, being daunted
 with the Reverend Majestie of
 their Prince: but others flew
 upon him and slew the old Em-
 perour while hee yet spake.
 Which execrable act as soone
 as they had done, purposing to
 decline the fury of the multi-
 tude, who (they knew) would
 take it most grievously, they
 ran to their Campe; where
 immuring themselves, they
 placed Armed men on the Bat-
 tlements, to keepe the people
 from the Wals. This end had
 that renowned *Pertinax*.

When this Massacre of the
 Prince was divulged, all places
 F 4 were

The like
 effect of
 Majesty in
 Q Olympi-
 as, see in
 Iustia lib.
 14.

He is mur-
 thered.

And ex-
treamely
lamented.

were full of uproars, and dole-
full Outcries; the people ran
up and downe like Frantickes,
in a great hurly burly; search-
ing for the Actors, and not wot-
ting where to find them, or
how to bee revenged on them:
but especially the Lords and Se-
nators tooke it most to heart, as
a common calamity, wanting
now their indulgent Father, and
most gracious Governour: all
men fearing a relapse into Ty-
rannie; which they knew, the
Souldiers so much delighted in.
After a day or two, the people
were calmed with their owne
feares, and the chiefe Nobles
and Magistrates retired to their
remotest countrey houses, a-
voiding the danger that might
ensue, by being present at the
election of the next Successor.

The Souldiers perceiving that
the

the people were quiet, and that none durst undertake to revenge the Princes death; kept themselves close within the Campe, appointing those that could speake lowdest, to proclaime from the top of the Wall, *that the Empire was to be sold, and hee that would give most Silver for it, should bee invested in it, by force of Armes; and safely conducted to the Imperiall Palace.* When they had made this Out-cry, none of the worthier or nobler sort of the Lords or Senators, nor yet any of those wealthie Citizens, which were the small remaines of *Commodus* Tyrannie, would goe to the wall, to traffique with them; as scorning the Empire [OF THE WORLD] on such base and dishonourable termes.

The Empire set to sale.

The braverie of the Roman's spirit.

But when *Indian*, a man of

* *suburo*
 d. ②.
 (for the
 Romans
 fate not at
 Tables.)

Consular dignity, who was reputed a great monied man (but of little honesty) had notice late in the Evening, being at supper (in the midst of his cups and jollity) of the Souldiers Proclamation, hee was perswaded by his wife and daughter, and a number of Parasites, to rise from his * Pallet, and hie him to the Wall, to see what was done. All the way as hee went, they counselled him to lay hold on the Empire, now it was profered; for having store of coine, hee might easily outvie all, in magnificent Donatives, if there should bee any competition. As soone therefore as hee got to the Campe-wall, hee shouted to them, promising to give whatsoever they desired: for hee said, hee had a mighty Masse of money, and
 Treas.

Treasuries full of gold and silver.

At that same instant, *Sulpi-* *Julian and Sulpitian*
tian Provost of the Citie, who offer for it.
had also beene Consull, and
was *Pertinaxes* Father in law,
came thither with an intent to
buy the Empire. But the Sou-
diers were jealous of him, be-
cause of his alliance to *Bertinax*,
mistrusting, hee went about to
entrap them, and to revenge his
death. Wherefore rejecting
him, they put downe a Ladder,
and took up *Julian* to the top of
the Wall, yet admitted him
not into the Campe, till the
summe hee should give were a-
greed upon. Being entred the
Campe, hee promised to reue-
the memory, and restore the
honours and Statuaes of *Com-*
modus, which the Senate had ab-
rogated; to afford them as
much.

much liberty, as ever they had under him; and to give to every Souldier, more silver then they demanded or expected, and that without delay, in regard he had it ready at home.

Julian elected.

The Souldiers allured with such faire Hopes, proclaymed *Julian* Emperour, firnaming him *Commodus*. Then flourishing their Ensignes (which they had garnisht with his pictures) they resolved to bring him into the Citie. *Julian* having sacrificed in the Campe (as new Emperors were wont) issued forth with a stronger Guard than formerly had beene accustomed. For having forcibly seiz'd the Sovereignety against the Peoples minde, by foule and shamefull meanes, hee might justly feare a Commotion. But the Souldiers arming themselves completely.

pleatly, put themselves in *Battalia*, that if need were, they might be ready to fight; placing their Emperour in the midst, and covering their heads * with their * In forme
Pikes and Targets, to prevent • of a Testu-
the Peoples throwing stones up- do. *Vid. Lips.*
on them from the House-tops *de Milit.*
Rom.

(as they marched.) Thus they conducted him to the Palace, none of the Commons daring to resist, nor congratulating him (as was usuall at the Election of Emperors.) But on the contrary, they stood a farre off, cursing and banning him for purchasing the Empire with mony. The Commons curse him.

Here first of all, did the Soldiers fall into extremity of Debauchednesse, and by their ravenous and insatiable Desire of Money, the Imperiall Majesty was blasted with Contumelie.

For there being none to vindicate

cate the cruell massacre of the former Prince, nor to withstand the base Brocage of the present Vsurper; it was the chiefe cause of many Insolencies and Mutinies which afterwards happened: their Greedinesse of Money, and Contempt of Sovereignty, still inducing Murther and Bloud-shed.

Julian having thus ravisht the Empire, plunged himselfe presently into all Riot and Disorder, little regarding State businesse; being wholly devoted to an Vnprincely and voluptuary life. And now it was discovered, that hee had cogg'd, * and cheated the Souldiers; and was not able to keepe up his Credit with them: for hee had not so great store of Coyne as he vaunted. As for the Exchequer, *Commodus* had long since exhausted

* Ψδο-
μιν & ἑα-
τάτης.

hausted it, with his vaine luxury, and vast prodigality. The Souldiers therefore falling short of their hopes, were extremely offended with him, and the Commoners, who knew their minds, utterly scorned him; rayling at him, when he came abroad, and taunting him for his lewd and lascivious behaviour. Yea, in the *Cirque or Race-yard (where was the greatest Concourse of people) they decryed *Julian*; calling upon *Niger*, the chiefeſt Officer of the ſacred Empire, to vindicate the Roman State, and haſten to free them from that propudious Governour.

* The Circus (or Horse-race) was built in an Ovall forme of great length, with rowes of Seats one above the other, able to containe above an hundred thousand Spectators. *Σαῦρῆς βασιλείας,*

This *Niger* had beene Consul long before, & at that time was Præſident of *Syria*; which was then the higheſt and moſt eminent Dignity in the Empire; for the

the *Phanician* Nation, and all the Regions as farr as *Euphrates*, were under his Command. He was now well stept in yeares, and having gone through many weighty Affaires, had got a very high esteeme for his Moderation and Sufficiencie: and was reputed to imitate *Pertinax*; for which Cause the Romanes did chiefly affect him. And now in all their Assemblies they still cryed aloud for him; reproaching *Julian* to his face, and universally calling upon *Niger*, with acclamations *Imperiall.

* Βασιλι-
καῖς φων-
αῖς.

When *Niger* understood the Romans inclination, and what Out-cries they made for him in their ordinary meetings; considering withall, that *Julian* was contemned by the Souldiery, for falsifying with them, and condemned by the communal-ty,

ty, for his Mercenary Purchase; hee perswaded himselfe that the busines would easily be accommodated, and made no doubt of obtaining the Sovereignty. Wherefore imparting these Roman passages and intelligences to some few Tribunes, * Coronels, and Captaines; hee sent them home one after another, that these *Aires* might (by their relations) bee dispersed among all the nations and Armies of the *Orient*: for by that course hee assured himselfe, that all men would most readily incline to him, when they saw that he did not insidiously invade the Empire, but was wooed to accept it by the ardent votes, and humble sute of the Romans. And according to his expectation, they flocked to him from all parts, beseeching and importuning

* ηγούμενος.

Nigens Policie.

The Character of
the *Syrians*.

Stage-
playes and
Revels.

tuning him to take upon him the Sovereigne rule. Now the people of *Syria* are naturally light, and prone to Innovations; and were infinitely devoted to *Niger*, both in regard hee had ruled with singular Clemencie, and had also entertained them with Shewes and Enterludes. For the *Syrians* are by naturall Inclination, great lovers of sports; insomuch, that the inhabitants of *Antioch* (a mighty and flourishing Citie) spend (in a manner) all the yeare in sportive Recreations, either in the Citie or Suburbs. Thus *Niger* by continuall courting them with *Bals*, Masques, Shewes, and other pleasurable pastimes, had chained their affections to him. Which hee well knowing, appoynted all the Souldiers thereabouts, to come together at a day

day prefixed ; What time a great number of people being likewise assembled , hee thus spake to them from a high Seat purposely erected.

Niger's Speech to the Army, &c.

VWth what a gentle hand I have ruled among you, and how circumspect and punctuall I have beene in undertaking Actions of great import ; I suppose is well knowne to all here present. Neither have I here assembled you of my owne head, out of ungrounded Hope or flattering Desire. But the Romans call upon me with incessant Clamours and Sollicitations, to lend them my * helping hand, and not permit so ancient, excellent, and glorious an Empire to bee basely merchandized. Now as it were a high point of Folly and Presumption, to attempt so great an Enterprize, without just Occasion intitling : So to refuse to ayd them which implore our helpe, might breed an imputation of cowardize

ἡγεμονία
τῆς πόλεως.

Cowardize and Treacherie. The reason therefore why I have conven'd you at this time, is to know your Minde; and what Course you thinke were best: being desirous of your Advice and Assistance in this weighty Affaire; which if it prosper well, will redound to your benefit, as well as mine. Nor are they vaine or meane Hopes which sollicite us; but the Roman people, whom the Gods have made Lords of the World: and the Imperiall Dignity, which is yet wavering and unsettled in the person of any man. Now the Certainty of this Designe is apparent, both by the forwardnesse of them that crave our succour; and for that there is none to make Opposition or Resistance. For they which are come thence, assure us, that the Souldiers which sold the Empire to the Usurper, are not like to sticke to him, because he hath broke his Credit with them; and was not able indeed to performe his Bargain. Shew therefore (I pray you) how you stand affected.

At which Words, the whole
Army

Armie proclaimed him Empe-^{Niger cle-}
rour and *Augustus*. Then vesting^{ed.}
him in Purple Robes, and other
Royall Abiliments (as that sud-
den Preparation would afford)
they conducted him (with Fire
carried before him) first to the
Temples of *Antioch*, and then
to his owne House; which now
honouring as the Princes Pal-
lace, they adorned on the Out-
side, with all Imperiall Orna-
ments.

Niger glad at his heart, of this
good successe, seeing the Ro-
mans and all others conspired to
advance him, made no doubt
of carrying the Sovereignty.
When this Newes flew abroad,
presently all the Nations borde-
ring on *Europe*, willingly sub-
mitted to him: sending their
Embassadours to *Antioch*, as to
their rightfull Emperour. Also
the

Nigers security.

And Error.

the Kings and Princes beyond *Euphrates* and *Tigris*, sent to congratulate him, promising their ayds, if he needed. He returned them many thanks, richly rewarded the Embassadors, and told them he needed no supplies, for hee was sufficiently assured of the Empire, and would raigne without bloud-shed. In which Confidence reposing, he began to bee more remisse and negligent; solacing himselfe and the *Antiochians* with all variety of sports, and Theatricall delights; not regarding (which most concerned him) to take his journey to *Rome*, nor yet acquainting the *Illyrian* Armies; which he ought first of all to have solicited and gayned. But he perswaded himselfe, that as soone as they heard of it, they would side with the Romans, and Easterne Forces.

While

While hee thus demeaned himselfe, and anchored on these *Shallowes*, and Vncertainties; the Bruit of these Occurrents was fresh among the Pannonians, Illyrians, and all the Garrisons which were quartered on the Bankes of *Ister*, and the *Rhine*, to defend the Romane Empire from the Incurſions of the adjoyning Barbarians.

The President of the Pannonians (for they all had but one Severus described. Governour) was *Severus*, an African by Descent, a brave active man, but of a violent spirit, inured to a strict and austere life; easily induring labour and travell; of a nimble Apprehension, and quicke Resolution to execute what hee determined. When he perceived by the Messengers, that the Romane Empire hanged like a * Meteor in *μετέωρον. the

the Skie, and was exposed to him that could catch it; he contemned *Julian*, as an abject Fellow: and *Niger* as a dull Flegmaticke. Hee was also much animated by certaine Dreames, Oracles, and Presages; which are then best credited, when they are verifed by the event: most whereof himselfe recorded in the Booke which he writ of his owne Life; and presented them also to publicke view, in Statuarie Representations; but his last and chiefeſt Dreame, which rayſed him to the highest hope, I may not omit. What time *Severus* received intimation of *Pertinax* his Instalment in the Empire, having sacrificed and ſworne Allegiance to him; comming home at night, he fell asleepe, and dreamed hee saw *Pertinax* mounted on a gallant Cour-

His dreame

Courser, adorned with Imperiall Trappings, which carried him through the sacred * Street at * *Via sacra* *Rome*. But when he was to enter the *Forum*, where the people, in time of * Democracie, had their most solemn Assemblies; * Popular Rule. the Horse seemed to throw *Per- tinax* (wth a terrible fall) to the ground; and gently to suffer him (who stood next) to backe him; carrying him safely and steadily through the midst of the *Forum*; lifting up *Severus* on high, so that all the people saw him, and adored him. And there remaines to this day in the very same place, a huge brasle Image of that Dreame.

Severus thus encouraged, and perswaded he was called to the Empire by Divine Providence, resolved to try how the Souldiers were inclined: and first hee

G

con-

convented a few Coronels, Tribunes, and Commanders; and taking occasion to speake of the Roman Empire, shewed how vilely it was prostituted; and that none of spirit or worth, went about to vindicate it. Hee inveighed also against the Pretorian Bands at *Rome*, as Traytors; for violating their oath, by spilling their Emperour and Countrey-mans blood; saying, that it was fit they should pursue *Pertinax* his murther with a sharpe revenge.

Now hee well knew that the memory of *Pertinax* was still fresh in the *Illyrian* Armies; which under his command (in the Emperour *Marcus* time) had got many glorious victories, over the Germanes: and when

* *Slavonia*: hee was President of * *Illyria*, hee carried himselfe very brave-

ly in the warres; and ruled with
such wisdom and moderation,
as well shewed his rare sweet
spirit, and generous disposition.
Wherefore they highly honou-
red his memory, and were enra-
ged against his Assassins: *Se-*
verus embracing this opportu-
nity, did easily draw them to
his bent, by the lustre of his
faire and winning Propositions;
pretending that hee affected not
the Empire, nor any Principa-
lity, but was onely desirous to
revenge the blood of that fa-
mous Emperour. For the Na-
tives of that Region, as they
are a Race of men, mighty of
body and limbe; tall Souldiers
and good Sword-men; so are
they but of slow wits; nor ea-
sily discerning the plot, if a man
deale subtilly or * politickly
with them. Wherefore *Severus*

Illyrians de-
scribed.

* *Spalato*
was an Il-
lyrian, and
Gondomar
(they say)
did *Severus*
over-reach
him.

having solemnly vowed to pursue *Pertinax* murtherers; they beleaved him, and submitting themselves, stiled him Emperour, and conferred upon him the Sovereignty.

Having thus assured the Pannonians, he presently sent to the bordering Nations, and to the Presidents of the Northern Provinces, which were under the Roman Regiment; whom he easily gained by great hopes, and faire promises. For he was the most cunning Dissembler in the world, and of a most winning behaviour; not regarding to falsifie his oath, to serve his turne. He knew how to cogge for his owne advantage; and would readily utter that with his tongue, which hee never meant in his heart. Thus by his courtly Letters hee won all the Illy-

*Severus a
darke and
subtile
Prince.*

Illyrians to his lure, and likewise the Provinciall Presidents. Which done, hee levied great numbers of Souldiers from all parts; assuming for his surname *Pertinax*; which hee thought would make him gracious both with the Illyrians and Romans (for their worthy esteeme of him.) His Army being assembled, hee thus spake to them from an high Throne.

Severus his speech to the
Army.

YOur zealous veneration of the Gods (by whom you have sworn) and your singular devotion to your Emperours, doe well appear by your detestation of those hainous crimes of the Pretorian Souldiers at Rome; which are men, rather for Shew, than Service. For my owne part, having never till this present, entertained such high hopes (for you know how loyall I have ever beene to

- my Liege Soveraignes) it is my chiefe
 * ἐκχρῆς. care and * Prayer to pursue and effect
 such things, as may sort to your gene-
 rall contentment, and not permit the
 Roman Empire, which hath heretofore
 beene administred with so great
 glory and honour, to be thus embased.
 For albeit, under Commodus it suf-
 fered much, by reason of his youth-
 fulnesse; yet the errors of that
 Prince were shadowed with his high
 Nobility, and his Fathers memory.
 His faults deserve rather commiseration,
 than execration: since (for the
 most part) they were not to be impu-
 ted to him; but to his flatterers, cor-
 rupt Counsellours, and Ministers of
 State. But when the Empire was in-
 vested in that grave * Senator (the
 memory of whose valour and vertue
 hath taken so deepe root in your
 * ἡγοῦμαι. * soules) the Pretorians not enduring
 it, most cruelly butchered that brave
 Prince. And now (forsooth) there is
 * ἡγοῦμαι. * one, that hath bought the Empire of
 the world: but such a one, as is mor-
 tally hated of the Commons (as you
 all heere) and not beloved of the
 Souldiers

Souldiers, whom hee hath deluded.
 But admit they were wilking to under-
 take his defence; they are not com-
 parable to you for number or valour.
 Besides, you are better exercised in
 the Warres. For by your continuall
 skirmishes with Barbarians, you have
 learned to endure all manner of toyle
 and travell; to scorne heat and cold;
 to wade through frozen Rivers; to
 drinke puddled waters; and to pra-
 ctise your selves in hunting. In a
 word, you have attained to such rare
 perfection in Martiall Discipline; that
 if any Would; there is none Able
 to stand against you. The glory of
 a Souldier consists in labour, not in
 lazinesse or * delicacie; wherewith
 the Stall-fed Pretorian Guards, be-
 ing over-pampered, will never be able
 to abide your Military * Shout, much
 lesse the Shocke. But if any mis-
 doubt the Syrian * Forces; hee may
 clearely collect, how im-puissant, and
 dejected they are, that have not dared
 to stirre out of their owne Countrey;
 nor have had the heart to enter into
 consultation of an Expedition to

Properties
 of good
 Souldiers.

Hunting a
 Military
 Exercise.

* No Ez-
 cellencie
 hath foun-
 dation in
 Delicacie.

* Boës.

* Vnder
 Niger's
 command.

Rome; but love rather to sit still, and entertaine Fortune by the day: as holding it a sufficient Guerdon of an unfaire Sovereignty. The Syrians are better scoffers than Souldiers, and more Mimicall than Martiall. But the Antiochians (they say) are chiefly devoted to Niger. As for the other Countreies and Cities, which as yet see none appeare, that is worthy the name of an Emperour, or able to governe the state with wisdom and courage; they doe meerely temporize and collogue with him. But when they shall understand that the Illyrian Army hath made another Election, and shall heare of my name (which is neither unknowne, nor inglorious among them, by reason of our exploits there, when wee were there President) you well know they will not charge me with sloth, or irresolution: nor will they offer to make prooffe of your brave

* Τερραίων. *courage, and martiall furie; being so farre your Inferiours, for goodlinesse of person, and excellent skill at your weapon, when you come to hand-strokes. Wherefore let us instantly
advance

advance, and seize Rome, and the Imperiall Palace. Then may wee with greater facility pursue our other *opposu-* designs, taking our rise from thence; *v* and reposing all our confidence in the Divine Predictions; and event in your victorious Armes; and unmatched.

Severus having thus sayd, the Souldiers with great cryes of joy, proclaimed him *Augustus* and *Pertinax*; making all possible expressions of Loyaltie and Alacritie. Severus proclaimed Emperour.

Severus without further procrastination, commands all to Arme themselves as lightly as they could, and proclames his Expedition to *Rome*. Then giving them Donatives, and distributing to every one a competent Portion for a *Viaticum*; he marches with high speed & haughty courage, resting no where, nor scarce suffering his weary troops His Expedition to Rome.

to breathe them a little. Himselfe tooke as great paines as any, using as course Lodging, and hard Fare, as the meanest common Souldier; without any shew at all of Imperial pomp or delicacie; which made the souldiers much more affect him. For taking such infinite toyle in his own Person, it did so indeare him to them, that they readily did whatsoever he commanded.

After he had marched through *Pannonia*, and was come to the Mountaines of *Italie*, preventing Fame it selfe, by being seene as Emperour among them, before they had any Intelligence of his comming; all the Cities of *Italy* were in a fearfull Fever, at the approach of so great an Armie. For the Italians having long since left all use of Arme, and Militarie Discipline, devoted

He surpris-
zes Ita-ly.

ted themselves to Agriculture,
and a peaceable course of life.
While the Romanes were a free
State, and Generalls were elected
by the Senate, *Italy* was still in
Armes, and having conquered
the Greekes and Barbarians, be-
came Lords of the world; there
being not an Angle of Earth, or
Climate under Heaven, whither
the Glory of the Roman Armes
extended not. But when *Augu-*
stus came to the Monarchie, his
pacificall Government induced
a generall lazinesse and desue-
tude of Martiall Exercises; for
hee kept onely a certaine num-
ber of Mercenary Bands in Pay,
to guard the Romane Empire,
at the utmost bounds thereof,
which were naturally fortified
with great Rivers, deep Ditches,
craggy Mountains, and vast De-
sarts and Wilderesses. Where-
fore

fore, as soone as it was knowne, that *Severus* was comming with so mighty an Army, they were fore agast at that strange newes, and not daring to stirre against him, went to meet him with Lawrels in their hands. But hee making no longer stay at any place, than either to sacrifice to the Gods, or speake to the people, posied away for *Rome*. When *Julian* was advertised hereof, he made account he was utterly undone. For understanding what a numerous and potent Army the Illyrians were, and having no hope in the people (to whom hee was odious) nor much in the Souldiers (whom he had gulled) he made all the money he could, by himselfe or his friends, robbing the very Temples, and publicke Treasuries, and gave all to the Soul-

*Julian in
great feare.*

Souldiers to purchase their good will. But they returning small thanks for his great largesse, tooke it rather as a due debt, than free gift. *Iulians* friends counsell'd him to advance with his Army, and preclude the Alpine Straits. (Now the *Alpes* are exceeding high The Alpes. Mountaines (such as wee have none in these parts) circulating *Italy* like a wall; nature adding to the felicity of that Region, this impregnable fortification; extending from the North to the South-sea.) But *Iulian* not daring to budge forth of the Citie, sent to the Souldiers to beseech them to take armes, and exercise themselves, and make trenches & rampiers before the Citie; wherein he prepared all military ammunition, & caused Elephants trayned. all the Elephants (which he kept for

for shew and State) to be taught to indure Riders : supposing the Illyrians and their Horses would be skared with the strange shape and bulke of those Beasts which they never saw before. All the City was now busie in providing Armes and Warlike Furniture. But while *Iulian's* Souldiers goe slowly to worke, and scarce prepare for Warre, *Severus* is reported to be come already ; who having appointed many of his Souldiers, several wayes to disperse themselves, and enter secretly into *Rome*, they arrived by sundry passages into the City (by night) covering their Armour with Rusticall habite, as if they had been plaine Countymen. And now was the Enemy in *Iulian's* bosome ere he was aware. When the People perceived this, being

Severus his
Stratagem.

ing all amazed, and greatly dreading *Severus* power, they beganne to incline to him, condemning *Julian* for a Dastard, and *Niger* for a Slugge, but commending *Severus* who was now at hand. Whereupon *Julian* being at his Wits end, and not knowing what to doe, assembled the Senate, and sent Letters to *Severus*, desiring to contract a League with him, and to be made his Consort in the Empire. But when the Senatours ^{*Julian deserted.*} which had agreed on that course saw how basely timorous and dejected hee was, they reiected him for a Recreant, and wholly revolted to *Severus*. Two or three dayes after, when Newes was brought that *Severus* was now come in person, all the Citizens utterly forsaking *Julian*, assembled in the ^{* *curia*} Guild-hall, by com- ^{Authority of Consuls.} mand

mand of the Consuls (who in such doubtful times have charge of the Romane State) where they entred into Consultation, what was best to bee done in that Exigent: *Julian* abiding (the while) in the Palace, deploring his Infortunity, and humbly begging that hee might abjure the Sovereignty, and resigne all his Imperiality to *Severus*. But when the Senate understood, that *Julian* was in such desperate Horrour, and that his Guards (for feare of *Severus*) had quite forsaken him; they decreed his Death, and declared *Severus* sole Emperor. Then send they (as Commissioners) diverse of the chief Magistracie, and prime Nobility, to render to him all Imperiall Honours. The Execution of *Julian* was committed to one of the Tribunes; who

ending

No receipt
against
Feare. (*Di-*
ctum Maria
illustrissime
Scotorum
Reginae.)

finding the wretched old Man
 (that had bought his owne Ru-
 ine with his Money) wholly de-
 serted and forlorne; slew him,
 as he was tearing his hayre, with *Julian slain.*
 abject Lamentations. When Se- *ὁ λουρὸς-
μενθ.*
verus understood the Senates
 Declaration, and that *Julian* was
 slaine; hee hoped to doe grea-
 ter matters; and layd a Traine
 to catch all the Pretorian Soul-
 diers that had murdered *Perti-*
nax. He sent therefore secret Let-
 ters to their* Tribunes and Cen- * Coronels
 turions, promising them great and Cap-
 rewards, to perswade their Com- taines.
 panies in the Citie, to submit to
 his Mandates. Meane while, he
 makes Proclamation, that all of
 them, leaving their Armes in the
 Campe, should come forth like *Severus his*
 peaceable men, in such Habits *Traine to*
 as they used when they atten- *take the*
 ded the Emperour at solemne *Pretorians.*
 Shewes

shewes and Sacrifices, that they might be sworne to *Severus*; and that they should come cheerefully, because they were to bee his Guard. The Souldiers crediting this Ediſt, and being also perſwaded by their Officers, lay aſide all their Armes, and iſſue forth with lawrell branches in their hands, in ſuch Equipage as they were wont in ſome great Feſtivity. When they drew near to *Severus* Campe, and it was told him they were all come, he comanded them to bee brought to his preſence, as if hee meant to welcome and enterraine them with all honour. But when they came before his Throne (with joyfull acclamations) upon a ſignall given at the inſtant, they were all apprehended. For *Severus* commanded his Souldiers, that when they ſaw

saw them assembled before him expecting some high favour, they should presently wheele about them in martiall manner; yet not wound nor strike them, but onely make a Ring, and hemme them in; presenting their Iavelins and Pikes towards them, which they being unarmed, and but few in comparison of them, durst not resist so many men at Armes. When *Severus* had thus impounded them, with a strong voice, and furious spirit, hee thus spake to them.

Severus his speech to the
Pratorian Guards.

You see now by experience, that wee farre exceed you in policie, power and number. You are easily caught, and as easily held. Now are you all at my devotion, to doe what I please wish you. Here you stand

stand like a herd of beasts, ready to be sacrificed at my becke. If you expect a Doome, or Death, responsible to your blacke deeds, and detestable villainies; the World cannot afford it. You have barbarously butchered that venerable Father, and Excellent Empercur, whom, as his Guards, you ought to have defended. You have most shamefully truckt for silver (as if it had beene some of your owne goods) the most glorious Roman Empire, which was anciently the Gnerdon of Nobility, or Militar * vertne. And now like base * Poltrones, you have betrayed him that was your Mercenary Sovereaigne; not daring to guard or protect him. For these inexpressible crimes you deserve a thousand deaths, if you had your due. Now you see what you are worthy to suffer. But I scorne to imitate you, or to pollute my hands with your blood. Neither justice nor equity permit, that you should any longer be the Emperours Guard; that thus have violated your oath, distained your selves with your naturall Princes blood, and be-

* ἀνδραγαθία
ἐν ἀρμίστι.

* ἀνδραγαθία
ως.

betrayed the trust and confidence reposed in you. Your Soules and Bodies (of my Nobl^{ty}ness) I am content to bestow upon you. But I command my Souldiers to ungirdle you; and divest you of all Military Attire, and Accoutrements; and send you away stript: which done, I charge you all to get you packing, farre from Rome: for I here decree, vow, and swear, that if any of you be found within an hundred miles of the Citie hee shall die for it.

Having given this charge, ^{The Pre-} the Illyrian Souldiers presently ^{torians de-} ranne to them, and disarming ^{graded.} them of their short Swords, (which were curiously wrought with gold and silver, and customarily worne at solemn shewes) they tooke from them their belts, scarffes, and other military ornaments, and rasht off all their clothes; leaving them starke naked.

. When

Traytors
betrayed.

When they saw themselves thus betrayed and taken with a Wile; there was no way but patience. For what could a few naked men doe, against so many armed? They departed therefore with heaviē cheere; yet glad their lives were given them; shrewdly repenting, that by leaving their Armes, they had subjected themselves to so foule and disgracefull a Doome. *Severus* used also another policie; for doubting lest being degraded, they would desperately runne to their Campe, and resume their Armes; he had sent before some Troopes of his choicest and trustiest Souldiers, by secret wayes and passages, commanding them suddenly to seize their vacant Campe, and with their owne weapons to keepe them out, if they attempted

ted to returne. Thus were those
Assassinates of *Pertinax* puni-
shed.

Forthwith *Severus* with his *Severus*
enters
Rome. Army arranged in Battel-array,
makes his entry into *Rome*; the
Romans being at first sight ter-
ribly afraid of him, for his da-
ring and speedy Enterprise.
Howbeit, the Peeres and Com-
mons received him with Law-
rels, who of all Men and Em-
perours, was the first, that with-
out blood or sweat, effected
such rare Enterprises. Indeed,
all things in him were admirable His Elogie.
; especially his high wit,
piercing judgement, indefatiga-
ble industry, happy-hopefull
audacitie in great and Heroicall
Attempts.

After the people had well-
comed him with their Accla-
mations, and the Nobles salu-
ted

• Δεξιότη-
 • τας.
 His Plausi-
 bility.

ted him at the City Gates, hee repayred to *Iupiters* Temple; where having sacrificed, he did his Devotions at the other *Fanes* (as the Emperours were wont) and lastly, betooke himselfe to the Imperiall Pallace. The next day he went to the Senat-house, where hee made a smooth and plausible Speech; and then gave his * Hand to all the Company, professing, *That his maine End in comming to the City, was to revenge Pertinaxes Death, and to lay the Plot and Foundation of an Optimacie: promising that none but those which were condemned by Lawe, should lose Life or Goods: that hee would not tolerate Informers: that hee would make a happy and flourishing State, and in all things imitate Marcus; and not onely assume the Name, but the Minde of Pertinax.* With these faire Promises

ses he stroked the Senators; most of them inclining to affect and believe him: but some of the elder and sager sort, that better knew his disposition, told them in their care, that *hee was a right* His Censure. *Politician, full of tricks and traines, and an exquisite Dissembler and Temptraizer, for his owne end: As afterwards it proved.*

Severus intending but a short stay in *Rome*, gave to the Commons a magnificent Donative of Corne, and a great Largeesse to his Souldiers; selecting the ablest among them for his guard (in steed of those which were degraded.) And now he prepares an Expedition to the Orient; where *Niger* lay rusting (all this while) and revelling at *Antioch*; whom he hasted to surprise ere he were aware, and take him unprovided.

H

Com-

His prepara-
tion for
Warre.

Commanding therefore his Souldiers to make ready for that Voyage, and recollecting all his Forces, he adjoyned to them all the flowre of the Italian Youth; and gave order, that the rest of the Army in *Illyria* should come down to *Thrace*, and meet him on the way. He provided also, a great fleet of ships, & prest all the gal- lies of *Italy*, which he filled with Men at arms, & sent them a way: having amassed together, with incredible speed, a mighty maga- zin of all manner of provision & ammunition. For he well knew, hee needed more than ordinary Forces against the Nations bor- dering on *Europe*, which were all under *Niger's* command. Thus *Severus* * gallantly prepared for the war. But withall, like a wise and provident man, he shrewdly misdoubted the British Armies, cōsisting of great & brave troops

* *verat* os.

He is afraid
of the Bri-
taines.

of most excellent * Souldiers ; <sup>* μαχημα-
τατων.</sup>
whose Generall was *Albinus* ; of <sup>Albinus
Governour
of Britaine.</sup>
very noble & honorable descent
& born to exceeding great welth
and possessions. Him hee resol-
ved to win by policie, lest other-
wise being excited by his riches,
noblenes, forces & renown (sharp
and piquant motives to aspire to
Soveraignty) he should attempt
to overtop him & seize on *Rome*
(w^{ch} is not very far distant from
Britaine) while himselfe were in-
gaged in the Eastern wars. Now
his bait to catch him, was by a
glittering shew of honor; for be-
ing a credulous man, and none of
the deepest Politicks, he presely
believed the oaths & protestati-
ons w^{ch} he sent him by Letters :
wherin he stiled him *Cesar*, anti-
cipating his ambition, by comu-
nicating the soveraigne dignity.
In the sayd courtly and comple-

He is stiled
Cesar by
Severus.

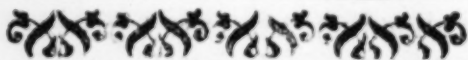
mentall lines, he besought him to bee Protector of the Empire, w^{ch} stood in great need of so noble and brave a yong Gallant; as for himselfe, he was now grown old and gowtie, and his children were but infants. *Albinus* easily gave credit to him, and willingly took the honor upon him; being glad he attained his desire without battel, or further danger. To give the more glosse to his intentions, *Severus* acquainted the Senat with the passages; cōmanding also Coines to be stamped with his image; as also his statues to be erected; with all other Imperiall honors; the better to blanch his designs. Which having with high wisdome performed, & so lockt *Albinus* in *Britain*, that there was no feare of him; he gathered all the Illyrian Forces into one body, & now all things being in readi-

readinesse, he leads his Army directly against *Niger*. What were his Stations by the way, what speeches he made to every city, what frequent prodigies *by divine providence appeared; as also what countries he marched thorow, what conflicts hee had, and how many were slaine on either side, many Historians have related, & Poets especially have largely dilated; making *Sever*^s acts the argument of their works. But my intendmēt is to compile a History of the acts of many Emperors reigning in the compasse of 70 yeares, w^{ch} I certainly *know to be true. I shall therefore deliver part of the chiefeſt and choiſeſt actiōs of *Sever*^s, not flattering, or faining more thā was performed (like the Writers of that time) nor yet suppressing ought that is worthy to be knowne or recorded.

H 3

H E.

* N. B. *as*
*apokrita.*Herodian
writes a
History of
70 yeares.
* *as* *dictis*
ōidē.



HERODIAN
HIS IMPERIALL
HISTORIE.

The third Booke.

The Contents.

Niger prepares for Warre. He fortifies Mount Taurus, and Byzantium. Æmilianus his General, defeated Severus Policie. He assautes Mount Taurus. Moores described. Alexandria. Battell betwixt Severus and Niger. Niger beheaded. Severus Plots against Albinus. His Speech against him. His strange Winter-march. Albinus sayles out of Britanie, and fights with Severus. The Brittaines fight bravely, and beat Severus off his Horse: They winne the first Battell: They disranke, and are routed. Albinus beheaded. Severus his glorious
Elo-

Elogie. Hee makes two Vicegerents in Britanie. His cruelty and covetousnesse. Secular Games every three hundreth yeare. Severus his Expedition into the East. He besieges Atræ, and is repulsed. His strange fortune. He surprises the Parthian King. He enters Rome in triumph. His Sonnes Dissentions. Plautian a mighty Favourite. His Treason, strangely detected. Hee is cut in pieces. Severus instructs his Sonnes. News from Britanie. Severus his Expedition thither. Description and Elogie of the Picts or Scots. Severus dies for griefe. Antonine's Cruelty. Severus Reliques, Antonine and Geta saile out of Britanie.

IN the former Booke, we have related the Murther of *Portinax*, the Slaughter of *Julian*, *Severus* his Expedition to *Rome*, and lastly his Preparations against *Niger*.

As soone as *Niger* (who little expected such *Newes*) understood

Niger prepares for Warre.

H 4 that

that *Severus* had seized *Rome*; that the Senate had proclaimed him Emperour; and that all the Illyrian Armie, and other Forces were comming against him by Sea, and Land; being extreemely startled, hee warnes all the Vice-gerents of the Provinces, to set strong Guards at all Ports and Passages; and sends for *Ayd*, to the Parthian, Armenian, and Atrenian Kings. The Armenians answer was, that hee would bee Neutrall, and reserve his owne Forces to defend himselfe if *Severus* assayled him. The Parthian promises to write to his Nobles, to levie Souldiers (as his manner was intime of Warre.) For the Parthians have no ordinary standing Armies, nor any souldiers in continual pay. From the Atrenians came a Band of Archers,

Archers, sent from King *Barse-*
mins, who then raigned in those
 Parts. The grosse of his army he
 made up of the Souldiers which
 he had with him; most of the
 Countrey youths, but especial-
 ly of the Antiochians, either
 out of their Levitie or Love to
Niger; more boldly than wisely
 flocking unto him. The Straits
 and Precipices of Mount *Tau-*
rns, hee fortifyed with strong Mount
 Walls and Munitions; accoun- *Taurus* for-
 tified.
 ting that impassable place, would
 bee a Barricado to blocke up
 the Way to the Orient. For
Taurus lifting up his Ridge be-
 tween *Cappadocia* and *Cilicia*, dis-
 severs the Eastern and Northern
 Nations. Hee put also a Gari-
 son in *Byzantium*, the chiefest *Byzantium*
 and mightiest Citie of *Thrace*, now Con-
 stantino-
 ple.
 standing at that time in strength
 and wealth; for beeing situ-

ate in the narrow Proponticke Sea, it reaped equall benefit by Water and Land; from the first, Impost and Fish; from the latter, Corne and Fruit; as having a large and fertile Territory. This strong City he preoccupates to prevent the passage of *Severus Flee*, which was to saile out of *Europe* into *Asia*, through that narrow Chanell. The City was compass^d with a huge strong wall, of squared Milstons, so curiously cemented, that it seemed to bee an inire work made by Nature, rather than Art: yea, the very Ruines and Rubbish (which yet appeare) shew the marvellous skill of them that built it, and the stupendious strength of those that dismantled it.

In this manner did *Niger* order his Affaires, with singular Prudence and Providence (as he
imagi-

imagined.) *Severus* on the other side, slackt not, but incessantly marched with his Armie. And being advertized that *Byzantium* was well manned and strongly fortified, he turnes his course to *Cyzicum*. *Æmilianus* ^{Æmilianus} <sup>Nigers Gen-
nerall.</sup> Lieutenant of *Asia*, to whom *Niger* had committed the Manage of the Warre, and chiefe Command; hearing that *Severus* was marching, leades all the Forces which he had leaved, or were sent by *Niger*, directly to *Cyzicum*. When the Armies met on both sides, after divers bloody battels in those parts, *Severus* at last was Master of the Field; a great number of *Nigers* Soldier being routed, slaine, and put to flight. Which Successe ^{Defeated} ^{by Severus.} mightily encouraged the *Ilyrians*, and the * *Easterlings*. But * *Αντιόχεια* ^{Antiochia} many were of opinion, that from ^{the} ^{the}

the beginning, *Niger* was betrayed by *Æmilian*; for these reasons. Some say, hee envied *Niger*, disdayning that hee, who was but his Successour in *Syria*, should now be his Superior, Emperor, and Sovereign. Others suppose, that hee was thereto perswaded by his Childrens Letters, who besought him to take care of their safety: for *Severus* having found them at *Rome*, put them in hold, out of deep policie, and early providence. And it was *Commodus* his manner to retaine with him their Children, whom hee sent to bee Lieutenants of Provinces, as Pledges of their Allegiance and fidelity. Wherefore *Severus* (like a vigilant man) at his first Designement to the Empire in *Iulians* time, sent secretly for his children out of the Citie, lest they should be afterward

Severus his
Policie.

ward seized on. And at his coming to *Rome*, hee instantly apprehended all the Children of the Presidents, and other chiefe Captaines & Commanders that ruled in *Asia*, or the East, carrying thē with him as Prisoners, thereby to induce their Fathers to revolt from *Niger* (for their preservation) or if they continue firme to him, to let them know, that by killing them, he could be revenged on them at his pleasure.

Nigers Souldiers being overthrowne at *Cyzicum*, fled amaine; some to the Armenian Mountaines; others through *Asia*, and *Galatia*, hastning to Mount *Taurus*, to get into that strong Hold. *Severus* Armie marcht through the Country of *Cyzicum*, to the next region of *Bitbynia*. When it was famed that *Severus* was victor suddenly all the Cities in those parts

Parts, fell to deadly Feud; not so much for Love or Hate to either Emperour, as out of a mortall Antipathie, and implacable Enmitie one to the other. And this was anciently the fault of the Greekes, who by their intestine broyles and conspiracies, to extirpate the most eminent men, have utterly undone Greece: whose Inhabitants (by their old grudge, and civill disasters) first became Vassals to the Macedons; and then Slaves to the Romans: the same heart-burning, and spightfull emulation, continuing in the best Cities to our time. Wherefore after these things hapned at *Cyzicum*, the Citizens of *Nicomedia* in *Bithynia*, revolted from *Niger* to *Severus*, promising him (by their Embassadors) to receive his Armie, and assist him in all things.

But

But the Citizens of *Nicaa*, out of their malignity to them, took *Nigers* part, and enertayned his Souldiers, which either fled thither, or were sent to defend *Bithynia*. Out of these two Cities (as severall Camps) the Armies of both sides issuing, fought againe; but after a terrible battell, *Severus* got the Victory. From thence the Remaines of *Nigers* Forces fled to the Straits of Mount *Taurus*, to defend those Fortifications. *Niger* having left there as many as he thought sufficient to make good the Place, returnes to *Antioch*, to raise more Men and Money. Meanewhile, *Severus* Armie passing through *Bithynia*, and *Galatia*, marcht into *Cappadocia*; and there began to assaile the Fortification. But they met with no small difficulties; for the passage was extreme rough

Mount
Taurus is of
sayle.

rough and craggie, and the Enemy which was on the Walls, and over their heads, tumbled downe Stones upon them, and fought bravely; a few men serving to repell a great Number. For the Ascent was exceeding strait, being defended on the one side with a huge steepe Mount, on the other with a wonderfull Precipice, downe which fell continuall Cataracts from the top of the Mountaines. *Niger* had also made there a strong Fort to barre their Entrance on every side. During this Assault in *Cappadocia* there arose Mutinies upon the like Grounds and Grudges as aforesaid. For *Laodicea* in *Syria* (in despite of *Antiochia*) and *Tyrus* in *Phœnicia* (repining at the *Be-rythians*) when they heard of *Nigers* Discomfiture, defaced his Images,

Images, and proclaimed *Severus* Emperour: which *Niger* (then at *Antioch*) understanding, though (otherwise) of a milde disposition, yet stung with those opprobrious Injuries and Defections, sends against both the Cities all the * Mauritanian Darters that he had, and part of his Archers, charging them to kill all afore them, and to sacke and burn the Cities. The *Moors* (who are naturally bloody and desperate, regarding neither death nor danger) suddenly invading the *Laodiceans*, put them all to the Sword, and destroyed their Towne. Thence marching to *Tyre*, they first pillag'd it, and then cruelly slaughtering the Inhabitants, set it on a bright blaze. While this passes in *Syria* and *Niger* is levying new Supplies, the *Severians* persist in their Affail-

* *Mauritania*, now Fez and Morocco.

The *Moors* described.

affailment of the Fort of Mount *Taurus*, but with much wan hope and great discouragement; for it was an impregnable Worke, and naturally defended with the Mount, and Precipice. Being quite wearyed, and their Enemies now secure; extraordinary Stormes and Snowes fell suddenly in the Night (for in *Capadocia*, and especially at Mount *Taurus*, Winters are exream rough) accompanied with a vehement and impetuous Torrent; which being checkt by the Fortification, became more furious and violent. At last, Nature vanquishing Art, and the Wall yielding to the deluge, the floud (having sapt the Foundation, which was made in haste, and not so carefully as was requisite) bore downe all before it, and made an exceeding great breach:

breach: which the Defendants perceiving, & fearing that when the Waters were downe, they should be surprized by the Enemy, they all quit the place, and fled. With this Accident, the *Severians* were infinitely cheered and animated (as lead by divine providence) and seeing also the Guardians of the Mount were fled, they easily scaled it, and entered *Cilicia*. When *Niger* heard these Tidings, he gathered a vast Armie of undisciplined & inexpert Souldiers: & marching with maine speed, was followed with huge numbers of people, and almost all the Youth of *Antioch*, who exprest great alacrity, but were not comparable to the *Illyrians* for Valour or Experience. At the Bay of * *Iffus*, the Armies met, in a goodly spacious Plaine, which lying under a row

* A Citie called by *Alexander Nicopolis*, for his Victory there.

*In Nature
the Nor-
therne Re-
gions are
most Mar-
tiall.

Alexandria.

The Battell
betwixt *Se-
verus* and
Niger.

a row of Hills, Theatre-wise,
is extended all along the Sea-
coast; Nature having here made
(as it were) a Stage for a battell.
In the very same place they say
that *Darius* was overthrowne
and taken by *Alexander* in the last
great Battell; the * Northerne
Men then also vanquishing the
Easterne. The Citie *Alexandria*
(built on a Hill) the Trophie
and Monument of that Victo-
ry, yet remaines; and the bra-
zen Image of him that so named
it. Now it fell out that the
Hosts of *Severus* and *Niger* did
not onely incounter in the sayd
place, but also with like fortune
[to the other:] For on both
sides were they ready to fight in
the Evening, not sleeping all
Night for Care and Feare. At
Sunrising, the Generalls incou-
raged their Souldiers, who as-
failed

failed each other with incredible fury ; as accounting that the last Fatall Conflict ; and that Fortune would there designe the Emperour. After a long and grim Fight, there being on each side so great Slaughter, that the Rivers which ranne through the Plaine, sent much more bloud than water into the Sea ; at last the Orientalls turned their backs and fled, the Illyrians pursuing them to the Sea (where they thrust them in with woundes) and to the Hill-tops, where they slew them, together with a great number of people, assembled there out of the adjoining towns and villages, as Spectatours of the battell; supposing they were safe in that high ground. *Niger* being bravely mounted, poasted with a few of his Followers to *Antioch* ; where the people flying

flying every way, and piteously bewayling their sonnes and brethren; hee also grew desperate, and betooke himselfe to flight; but being found hid in a Suburban house, by the Horsemen that pursued him, his Head was strucke off.

Niger be-headed.

This end had *Niger*, being brought to that Disaster, by his dull protracting of time; though otherwise he were (as they say) in his publike and private carriage not culpable.

Niger being slaine, *Severus* presently put to death all his friends and Partizans, whether Voluntaries, or compelled to assist him. Yet he pardoned the Souldiers which were fled (for feare) to the Barbarians beyond the River *Tigris*; and received them into favour. For great numbers of them retired into those parts, whereby

whereby it came to passe, that the Barbarians were afterwards more able to incounter the Romanes in set battell; their manner of Fight, before that time, being onely with bowes and arrowes on horseback, without compleat Armour; having no skill to use Sword, or Lance; but clad with thinne loose Garments, they shot their Arrowes (most part) backewards, flying from their Enemies. But when diverse Romane Souldiers, and (among them) many Armourers, which fled thither, had set up their Rests there; the Barbarians learned not onely to use Armes, but also to make them.

Severus having settled the Affaires of the Orient to his owne contentment, had a strong desire to invade the Dominions of the
Atrenian

Atrenian and Parthian Kings, who were both *Nigers* Confederates. But deferring that till another time, he cast about, how he might now establish the Roman Empire on himselfe and his Sonnes. For *Niger* being taken away, the only Rub that remained was *Albinus*, whom he held to be altogether unprofitable for his Purpose, and incompatible to his designes. Besides, the Report was, that his Cæsarian Title had so puffed up his spirits, that he beganne to fare like an Emperour; and that many of the chiefe Peeres of the Senate had secretly writ to him to hasten to *Rome*, while *Severus* was absent, & elsewhere ingaged. And indeed all the Nobles were most devoted to *Albinus*; who was very honorably descended; and reputed to bee of a sweet and

generous Disposition. Of all which passages *Severus* having got intelligence, resolved not instantly to make open warre against him; or proclame him his enemy (there being no just cause or colour for it) but to trie if he could make him away by treacherie. Wherefore hee dispatches to him diverse trusty persons, which (as Poasts) used to carry the Emperors Letters and Missives, giving them in charge, that after they had publickely delivered the Packets, they should desire him to understand some further secrets in private; and whē he was apart from his guard suddenly to fall upon him, & kill him. Moreover, he delivered to them divers sorts of poysons, to bee ministred to him by some of his Carvers or Cup bearers, if they could perswade them. But

*Severus
plots against
Albians.*

I *Albinius*

Albinus his friends mistrusting *Severus*, gave him many caveats to beware him as a fraudulent and insidious person: For his fame was foully blasted by his ill dealing with *Nigers* Captains; whom having under-wrought by their Children (as wee formerly shewed) to betray *Nigers* Affaires, when he had made use of their Service, and attayned his owne ends, hee slew both them and their Children. By these Actions of his, they manifested to him his dangerous disposition. *Albinus* thereupon doubled his Guards, and admitted not to his presence any messenger from *Severus*, till he had laid by his military Fauchin, and was also searcht, lest he had any other Weapon in his bosome. And now were *Severus* his poasts

• In Britain arrived at *Albinus** Court, where
deli-

delivering their Letters openly, they besought him to step aside, to heare some speciall Secrets. *Albinus* suspecting them, commands them to be apprehended. Then, secretly torturing them, he learnt out all their treachery, and put them to death; and made preparation against *Severus*, as a professed Enemy. Which *Severus* understanding, being of a violent spirit and irefull nature, he no longer concealed his Enmity, but assembling all his Army, spake thus.

Severus his Speech against
Albinus.

L Et none, reflecting on my former Actions, tax me of Levity, Treachery, or Ingratitude, towards my reputed friend. I could doe no more than associat him (by a firme League) in the Imperiall Government: which some man would hardly doe to his own

brother. Yea, I communicated to him that, which you conferred on me alone. But Albinus unworthily requites these extraordinary Favours which I have heaped upon him. For he is now up in Armes against Us, contemning your valour; and not regarding his League with me. For he seekes with insatiable Desire, to ingrosse, that with his owne perill, which hee securely enjoyed by a peacefull Participation. Neither doth he revere the Gods by whom hee hath so oft sworne; nor respects he your travells, which with so great glory and courage you have undertaken for Vs both. For the fruits of your happy successe extended likewise to him. Yea, had he continued faithfull to us, we had done him greater honour, than was yet imparted to him. Now as to doe ill * Offices, is an act of Injustice; So, not to redresse a Wrong, is * un-
 * *ἐπὶ τῷ πρῶτῳ*
 * *ἀντιστοίχῳ* manly. In our Wars against Niger, our Quarrell was not so just, as necessary. For he sought not to embrace the Imperiall dignity invested in our person; but the Empire lying then at stake, and being yet litigious, both of Vs with
 equal

equall Ambition, fairely wrestled for
 it. But Albinus violating Leagues
 and Oaths; makes choice rather to
 bee an Enemy than a Friend, and to
 wage Warre rather than continue in
 amity; being advanced by our meere
 bounty to that eminent *Horor, which ^{* Title of}
 anciently appertayned to the sacred ^{Cæsar im-}
 Branches of the Imperiall Stemme. ^{plied Heire}
 Wherefore as wee have formerly en-
 nobled him with great and glorious
 Advancements: So now wee hold it
 meet, to chastise his ignoble Treache-
 ry by force of Armes. As for his poore
 Army of * Ilanders; it is impossible ^{* Brittaines}
 it should resist your Puissance. For
 since you alone, by your owne Valour
 and admirable Provesse, have wonne
 so many Battells, and conquered all
 the Orient: who can doubt but that
 now by ascesse of so many gallant men
 at Armes (for here are almost all the
 Roman Forces) you shall easily rout
 a small Number, led by One that
 hath neither Wit nor Courage? For
 who knowes not his Voluptuary life,
 fitter for a Swine than a Souldi-
 er? Let us therefore * bravely ad- ^{* Jovianus.}
 vance

vance against him, with our wonted alacrity and magnanimity : having the Gods for our Guides, whom hee hath dishonoured with Perjuries; and calling to mind the many Trophies wee have erected, which hee so highly scornes.

Severus having thus sayd, the whole Army proclaimed *Albinus* Traytor, but making full Demonstration of their loyall zeale to him, by their Acclamations; they mightily encouraged him, and made him wondrous confident. Whereupon rewarding them with magnificent donatives, he tooke his Journey against *Albinus*. Withall he sent certaine Troops to invest *Byzantium*, which was yet held by *Nigers* Souldiers that fled thither. Which Citie was afterward taken by Famine, and razed to the Ground; insomuch that

Byzantium
invested.

that the Theaters, Therms, and all the splendor and glory thereof being quite defaced, it was reduced to a meane * Village, * The Fate of Roebel: now, S. Mary Village. and given in vassalage to the Perinthians, as *Antioch* in like sort to the Laodiceans. Further, hee consigned great summes of money for the reedifying of the Cities spoyled by *Nigers* Souldiers. And now marching without any * Intermission, Or * *Severus* watchword was *Laboremus* regard to holi-dayes, or work-dayes, heat or cold (all being alike to him) he would oft in that stormy season, goe bare-headed on the tops of Mountaines, when it sharply snowed; to excite his Souldiers to Patience and Alacrity, by his owne Example; so that they cheerefully indured all difficulties, not so much for feare of law, as in a generous emulation of their royall Chiefe. He

sent also a strong Army to seize the Alpine Straits, and to forelay the passages into *Italy*.

Albinus
sails out
of *Britaine*.

Albinus, who (this while) pursued his pleasures, and was supinely negligent, when he heard that *Severus* was marching with such expedition; being startled with the horror of the newes, presently sailes out of *Britaine*, and disembarks his Armie in the opposite Coasts of *Gallia*; where he sends his *Mandates* to all Governors of the adjacent Provinces, to furnish him with Money and Victualls. They which did so, dealt very unadvisedly, for they were plagued for it, when the Warre was ended; but they that refused (rather by good hap than foresight) saved themselves: the Event and * Fortune of the Warre determining who were the wiser.

* τὸ ἔκτα τὸ
πρόβλεπον.

Severus

Severus Forces being entred
Gallia, there were first certaine
 light Skirmishes in divers parts;
 but at last, they fought a pitch
 Field, neere the great and rich
 City *Lugdunum*; where *Albinus*
 in muring himselfe, sent forth
 his Armie to fight. The En-
 counter was exceeding fierce;
 and doubtful it was a great while
 which way the Victory would
 incline; For the BRITAINES
 were no whit inferior to the Il-
 lyrians in * Manhood, or Mar-
 tiall fury. Both Armies fighting
 with equall bravery, it was hard
 to say, which would get the bet-
 ter. Divers Historians (of that
 Time) which more regarded ve-
 rity than partiality, report that
Albinus his Army was * *farre*
superiour in that Part, which
 was incountred by *Severus* in
 Person, with his Battalions;
 I s in somuch

Battell be-
 twixt *Seve-
 rus* and *Al-
 binus*.

Britains
 Elogie.

* ἀνδρεία
 τε καὶ θυμὸς
 ποικίλος.

* πάλῳ τι
 κατὰ χεῖρα.

The Brit-
taines beat
the bravest
Martialist
of the
world.

* Hymnes
sung to
Mars before
Battell, to
Apollo after
Victory.

insomuch, that *Himselfe* was put to flight, and beaten off his Horse, yea forced to throw off his Imperiall Cloake, and hide Himselfe. While the Brittaines follow the Chase, chanting out their * Pæans, as Victors; *Latus* one of *Severus* Commanders, suddenly charges them with fierce & fresh troops. Hee was harshly censured, as if hee purposely kept aloofe, and reserved that choice Regiment to get the Empire to himselfe: intending then to take the Field, when he heard *Severus* was slain. Which suggestion was fortified by the event. For when *Severus* had settled all things to his owne minde, and secured his estate, he richly rewarded all his other Chieftaines; but remembering how *Latus* had served him, hee put him to death, as he deserved. These things were done afterwards.

wards. Now when *Latus* came in view (as aforefaid) with a new supply ; the *Severians* took heart againe, and remounting *Severus* on Horfebacke, put on his Purple * Surcoat. The *Albinians*, * A milita-
 that (prefuming they were Ma-^{ry} Mantle.
 fters of the Field) had * disban- * So the
 ded themselves ; being sudden-^{dis-ran-king}
 ly and furiously charged by fresh^{of the Ea-}
 Companies ; after a short resi-^{glifh} loft all
 stance, fled ; the *Severians* fol-^{to the Ner-}
 lowing the execution to the Ci-^{mans.}
 ty gates. The Number of the
 flaine, and captives, on either
 fide, is differently related by the
 Writers of that Age. The City
 * *Lugdunum* was fackt and burnt * Lyons in
 by the *Severians* ; who having^{France.}
 took *Albinus*, struck off his head, ^{*Albinus* be-}
 and presented it to *Severus*.^{headed.}

Thus raised he two most fta- * Monu-
 ly Trophies ; One, in the East ; ^{ments of}
 and Another, in the North ; fo ^{Victory}
 that ^{usuall in} those parts.

*Severus the
greatest
Conqueror
of the
World.*

that Nothing is comparable to *Severus* conflicts, or conquests, either for multitude of Forces, commotion of Countries, number of Battells, length of Iournyes, or speede in Marches. I confesse, *Cæsars* Acts against *Pompey* (the Souldiers being Romans on either side) were very great; as also that of *Augustus* against *Antony* and *Pompey's* Sonnes; and likewise the Exploits of *Sylla* and *Marius*, in the civill and torraigne warres. But for *One Man* to have the killing of *Three Enthronized Emperours*; to surprise the Pretorian Troops at *Rome* by finenesse of Wit; to kill *One Emperour* in the Pallace Royall; to defeat another, that raigned in the Orient, and was elected Emperour by the Romanes; and to vanquish a *Thiud*, that was a *Cæsar*,

Cæsar, of great Nobility and Dependencie; you shall hardly finde the like. To this End came *Albinus*, having injoyed his Fatall Dignity but a short time.

And now was *Severus* full charged with wrath and indignation against *Albinus* Friends at *Rome*; whither he sent his head, commanding it to be publickly affixt on the Gallows. And in the Letters which he writ to the People of his Victories, he added this *Post-script*; that He there sent them his Head, strictly charging, that it bee publickly set on the Gibbet, to the end, they might perceive by that Token of his Wrath, how highly hee was offended with them.

Having Ordered the State of Britaine, and divided the government of the Province into two

* *Presi.*

Two Vice-^{* royes in} President-ships ; and having
^{Britaine.} likewise compos'd the Gallicke
^{* i. y. moria} Affaires to his owne minde, and
 slaine all *Albinus* Friends and
 Partners, whether voluntary or
 forced ; he set forward towards
Rome ; leading all his Army thi-
 ther, to strike the greater ter-
 rour. His Iourney being ended,
 with extraordinary speed (as his
 manner was) and being full of
 fury against *Albinus* Friends that
 survived, hee enters *Rome*. The
 Commons met him with Lau-
 rels, and received him with all
 honour and joyful acclamation.
 The Senatours also congratula-
 ted him, though many of them
 were extreemly afrayd that hee
 would not pardon them ; being
 so apt by reason of his Na-
 turall Immanity, to oppresse
 Men on the least Occasion ;
 and having now so probable
 pre-

pretences to question them.

Severus having visited *Jupiters* Temple, and performed other * Sacred Rites, went to his Roy- * *isopryia*.
all Palace, and in honour of his Victories, bestowed great store of Corne on the Citizens, and much Coyne on his Soulders, to whom he granted many Priviledges which formerly they had not. For hee first augmented their proportion of Wheat, and permitted them to weare Gold Rings, and cohabit with their Wives; all which were reputed utterly dissonant from Military austerity, and Martiall dispositions. But he was the first that altered their strong and manly Diet, and subverted all Order, Discipline, and Obedience to Governours; by teaching them to hunt after Money, and using them to delicate Fare,

* Or, Parliament-house.

* Nigr.

Severus cruelty and covetousnes.

Fare. Having made these Ordinances (after his owne fancie) he entred the * Senat-house, where ascending his Royall Throne, hee made a bitter Invective against *Albinus* Friends, producing the secret letters of some of them, which hee found in his Cabinets; and objecting to others, that they had honoured him with the richest Presents; to these, that they had favoured his Eastern * Enemies; to those, that they were *Albinus* Favourites. Then he put to death all the chiefe Peeres of the Senate; and slew without mercie all that were of great Estate and Nobility in the Provinces: pretending to suppress his Enemies; but spurred on (indeed) by extreme Avarice; wherein he exceeded all the Emperours. For, as in Haughtinesse of Spirit, hard-

hardnesse to indure labour, and Skill in Martiall affaires, he was equall to the worthiest: So was hee an unmeasurable Lover of Money; which hee accumulated by cruell Slaughters, upon the least Cause or Colour; ruling his Subjects rather by feare than love. Nevertheless, hee affected popular Lustre, by frequent exhibiting most stately Shewes (of all Sorts) where were oft slain an hundred beasts brought from strange countries. Hee distributed also magnificent Donatives to the people, and ordayned a Triumphall * *Agon*, * Game, or sending for A&ours and Champions from all parts. I have seene (in his Time) Shewes of all kindes of Pageants in all the Theaters at once; as also processions and vigils (like *Ceres my-* Secular Games.
steries.) These were then called

His Popu-
larity.

* Game, or
Exercise of
Manhood.

Secular
Games.

Secu-

V. Alex. ab *Secular Solemnities*, because they
Alex. Gen. were celebrated (as they sayd)
dier. l. 6. after the Tearme of three Ages
c. 19. or Generations. What time,

Bedles went thorow *Rome* and
Italy, to invite All to come and

* Instituted in honour of *Apollo* and *Diana* (the *Sunne* and *Moone*) see those * *Shewes* which they had never scene before, nor should ever after see: Intimating thereby, that the inter-space betwixt the past and present Celebrity, exceeded the longest Age of Men,

Having stayd a sufficient time at *Rome* (where he associated his Sonnes in the Sovereignty, and declared them Emperours) considering that his former Victories were over his owne Countrey-men and the *Romane Armies* (for which cause he forbore Triumph) he determined to get himselfe honour by a glorious Conquest of the Barbarians. His pretext was, to be revenged on

on *Barsemius* the Atrenian King, for his Confederacie with *Niger*. Whereupon he lead his army into the Orient, and as hee was about to enter *Armenia*, the King of the Armenians sent him Money, Presents and Hostages; humbly intreating to contract a League of Amitie with him. *Severus* seeing all things happen to his mind in *Armenia*, marches against the Atrenians. But *Augarus* King of the Osroens submitted himselfe to him, and having assured his Homage, by delivering his children for pledges, sent to his Ayd a goodly Band of Archers. *Severus* having passed the Region lying betwixt the Rivers and the Country of the Albenians, made a Rode into *Arabia Felix*, where growe those odorate Herbes which wee use for Spicerie and Fran-

Severus his
second Ex-
pedition in-
to the East.

Archers.

Siege of
Atra.

Frankincense. Having destroyed many Cities and villages, and wasted the Countrey, he entred the Land of the Atrenians, and beleaguere*d* *Atra*, a City mounted on the top of an exceeding high Hill, strongly walled and fortified, well manned and full of excellent Archers. *Severus* army incamping before it, made many furious Assaults, striving with all their strength to master it; to which purpose, they assailed the Walls with all sorts of warlike Engines; pretermitt*ing* no kinde of Invasion. But the Atrenians made a brave Resistance, and with Shot and Stones from above, did much hurt to the *Severians*. They filled also Earthen Vessells with small Fowles and Venomous beasts, which being cast among them, and lighting on their Faces,

Faces, and other open parts of their bodies, crawled all over them, and secretly stung and tormented them. Moreover, they were not able to indure the stifling Aire of that extreame hot Clime, which cast them into strange Calentures; so that the most part of the Armie dyed rather by that meanes, than by the Enemy. Whereupon, the Souldiers growing desperate at that luckelesse Siege (where the Romans lost more than they got) *Severus* discamped, and departed without Effect, lest all his Men should perish: being much grieved that the successe of the Siege was not answerable to his desire. For having beene wont to get the Victory in all incounters, he now reputed himself overcome, because he could not overcome. But Fortune
soone

Severus
strange for-
tune.

*Si vis secu-
rus esse, ti-
me securita-
tem. S. Ber-
nard.*

soone after smiled on him, and advanced his Designes; so that hee lost not all his labour, but fared better than hee expected. For his Army being imbarqued was not brought to the Romane Territories (as hee intended) but was hurried by the violent Streame to the Parthian banks; not many dayes journey from *Ctesiphon*; where was the royall Palace of the King of *Partbia*, who lived there in peace; esteeming *Severus* warres against the the *Atrenians*, to concerne him nothing at all. In which security he little thought of any Disaster. *Severus* Host arriving there against their wills, by the violence of the Current; presently landed, and immediately fell a syoyling & ravaging the Countrey; driving away all the Cattell they met with, for Provision,

on; and burning all the Towns
 (as they went.) Then marcht
 they to *Ctesiphon*, where the great
 King *Artabanus* was resiant, and
 finding the Barbarians unpro- King of
Parthia
 surpris'd.
 vided, they slew every man they
 found, pillaged the City, and led
 captive all the women and chil-
 dren. The King, with a few
 Horsemen, escaped: but they
 rifled his Treasures, and taking
 all his Ornaments and Jewells,
 returned to their Ships. Thus
 got *Severus* the victory over the
 Parthians rather by chance than
 choice. And now having sped
 so happily beyond all hope, hee
 sent * Letters to the Romane
 Peeres and People, containing a
 glorious Relation of his Acts; * Dight
 accompanied with painted Ta- with Lau-
 bles, representing all his Battels rel, as Con-
 and Conquests. Hereupon the querors u-
 Senate decreed to him all tri- sed.
 umphant

umphant Honours, and the Surnames of the Nations hee had vanquished.

Severus having composed the Orientall Affaires, took his way towards *Rome*, bringing with him his Sonnes, who were now big Youths. Having ended his Journey, ordered the Provinces (as was requisite) and visited the * *Myfian* and *Pannonian* Armies, he entred the City in Triumph; the Romanes receiving him with great Acclamations and glorious Ceremonies. Hee againe entertained them with Feasts, Sports, Spectacles, and Pageants; giving them Royall Donatives, and solacing them with Triumphall Shewes. Hee abode many yeares in *Rome*, where he wholly gave himselfe to Matters of Iudicature, and State-affaires; indeavouing to
 traine

* *Myfia*,
 now *Servia*
 and *Bulgaria*.

Severus
 Triumph.

traine his Sonnes in all noble
 Studies and Exercises. But they
 being well-growne Youths, had
 their Dispositions corrupted by
 the Romane Diet and Delices ;
 as also by the excessive frequen-
 ting of Stage-playes, Charriot-
 sports, and Revells. Moreover,
 the Brethren fell at variance, one His Sonnes
dilections.
 with the other ; their first quar-
 rell being about the childish de-
 sire of Victory at Quaille-fights,
 Cock-fights, and the wrestling of
 boyes. Yea whatsoever they saw
 or heard in publicke, they were
 still divided ; never affecting the
 same thing ; but what the one
 applauded, the other scorned.
 Which Discord was fomented
 by both their servants and flatter-
 ers ; who * ΚΟΛΑΚΕΙ
ΟΥΤΕΙΣ. colloqued with them
 for their owne ends. *Severus* un-
 derstanding their differences, as-
 saied to recöcile them and reduce
 K them

* γνήσιον.

* γάμος
ἐφονίσαι
δὲ λωρ.

them to better temper. The elder of them (whose *Genuine Name was *Bassian*, before his Advancement to the Imperiall Family) *Severus* after his Inauguration in the Empire, named *Antonine*; which was the Sir-name of *Marcus*. To him hee gave a wife; hoping that *Marriage would make him a stayd man. Shee was the Daughter of *Plautian*, Captaine of the Pretorian Bands, who was (as they say) but of meane estate in his youth, and proscribed for Sedition, and other Crimes. Hee was *Severus* his Countriman (an African borne) and (by report) his Kinsman: and (as some have taxed him) in his younger yeares his Caramite. Him *Severus* advanced from very low degree, to great dignity; enriching him exceedingly with the Goods and Lands

Lands of condemned Persons,
and almost shring the * En * Of Severus
pire with him. Which Noble and plati-
Fortunes he abused to all Licen- ary See an
cioufnesse; omitting no cruelty excellent
or outrage, to compasse his de- pullig on
signes; being more Tyrannical- the Emper
ly sterne, than all the Princes Albans Ef-
that ever were. To his Daugh- foy of
ter did *Severus* match his Sonne, Friendship.
and unite his House to his.

But *Antonine* taking small joy Forced
in those Nuptialls, whereto hee Marriage.
was forcibly yoaked, without
any præ-election of his owne,
infinitely hated both the young
Lady and her Father; scorning
to lodge or cohabite with her;
yea, hee so loathed her, that hee
daily menaced to kill her and
her Father, as soone as hee were
sole Emperour. Which when
she still told her Father, shewing
him how hee abhorred her, hee

mightily stomackt it. *Plautian* therefore considering that *Severus* was now growne old and diseased, and that *Antonine* was a bold fierce Youth, he feared his Threats, and resolved to doe some Exployt, rather than suffer himselfe to bee made away. Moreover, he had many provocatives to aspire to Sovereignty: such excessive wealth, as never any Subject had the like: Marti- all men were all at his becke: the whole Romane State highly honoured him: yea his ordinary Garbe made him very gracious with the people; for hee still wore the Senatorian robe,* pur- fled and embrodered with Gol- den Studds, and was ranked with the prime Nobility. A Sword was borne before him, and hee alone represented the Emperors Person. Hee walked abroad with

Plautian
the mighti-
est Favou-
rite of the
World.

* *Vil. Alex.*
ab Alex. l. 5.
cap. 18.

with such terrible Majestie, that none durst come neere him; and if any met him (by chance) they stept aside: his Gentlemen Vihers making Proclamation, that *None should stand in the way, nor looke at him; but turne aside, and looke downewards.* When

Severus understood this, he disgusted it, and beganne to thinke harshly of him; insomuch that hee clipt the Wings of his Authority; commanding him to leave that insolent Demeanour.

Plautian taking this as an intolerable Affront, fell roundly to surprise the Empire: And this was his Plot: There was one *Saturninus* that had a Tribunes

* place under him, and was exceedingly devoted to *Plautian*; and though all were intirely his, yet hee by his singular veneration, had wonne his Affe-

His treason

*The command of 1000 soldiers.

tion more than the rest. Thinking him to be a most trusty fellow, and the onely Engine for his secret Designes ; hee sends for him in the Evening ; and all being commanded to voyd the roome, spake thus to him .

Now is the time for you to make a brave Consummation of the love and observance you have professed, and for me likewise to render to you according to your Merits, and to make condigne retribution. I put it to your choice, either to be as you see me now, and to succeed mee in this eminent place ; or instantly to suffer death for refusing my Command. Let not the greatnesse of the Enterprise affright, nor the Name of Emperours amaze you. When it comes to your turne this Night to relieve the Watch, you may goe alone to the Bed-chamber , and what you are to doe, you may secretly effect without any let. Goe your wayes therefore to the Court (without any more adoe) as if you had some speciall
secret

secret Message from me : and as soone as you come at them, kill them. Bee resolute (Man) you may soon dispatch an Old man, and a Boy. And as you partake the danger ; so shall you participate the greatest honour, for so gallant an Exployt.

At this Speech the Tribune was not a little confus'd ; yet recollecting himselfe, and being a notable shrewd pated Fellow (for he was a Syrian borne, and your Easterne Men are generally wise, and of quicke * sent) he considered, that to reject the motion of so mighty a Potentate, being in so great rage, were present death : wherefore pretending that hee infinitely liked the Businesse, he adored him as Emperour, beseeching his Warrant for the Execution: (For it was the manner of Tyrants, when they commanded any to be slain

*In warme
Climates
people are
generally
more wise.

(without Iudiciall Proceſſe) to ſigne a Warrant to that purpoſe, for the Actors diſcharge.) *Plan-
tian*, blinded with ambition, delivers his Warrant to the Tribune, ſtrictly charging him, that as ſoone as hee had killed both the Princes, before it were noyſed abroad, he ſhould ſend ſome to call for him, that hee might ſeize the Palace and Empire, before any man dreamt of it. With this charge and commiſſion, the Tribune departs, and as hee was wont, walks the Round through all the Emperours Pallace; and knowing how difficult a thing it were for one man to kill two Princes in ſeverall Lodgings, he intends to diſcloſe all to *Severus*; and deſired the Doore-keepers to let him in, for it concerned his Life. They delivering the Meſſage to *Severus*, hee commands

mands them to bring him in.

Being entred in, hee thus said:

Sir, I ~~am~~ come (as hee that sent mee ^{Saturninus} makes full account) to kill you, as ^{detects} your Deaths-man; but as my selfe ^{Plautian.} resolve and vowe to bee a Preserver of your Life. Plautian trayterously aspiring to the Empire, hath commanded mee to murder You and your Sonne, not onely by Word, but also by Writing; (Witnesse this Schedule.) And accordingly I undertook to execute his Command, lest, upon my Refusall, some other should have attempted it. This I come to certifie your Majestie, that you may avoyd him. The Tribune having done, fell a weeping. But Severus could not instantly credite it: For Plautian's Love had taken deep root in his heart; and hee suspected it to bee a meere Illusion, and cunning Imposture; imagining that his son

* Συβολὴν
 διὰ τὴν πο-
 σιν.

[the Prince] out of his hatred to *Plantian* and his daughter, had devised this stratagem & deadly *slander. wherfore instantly sending for him, he sharply rebuked him, for plotting such things against his deare bosome-friend. *Antoninus* swore deeply he knew nothing of it. The Tribune producing *Plantians* Warrant, *Antonine* encouraged him to detect the Crime. The Tribune perceiving his owne Danger, and well-knowing how gracious *Plantian* was with the Emperor (so that if now hee made not good his Charge, he should bee put to a cruell death) sayd thus; Sir, what clearer prooffe or stronger Evidence can you desire? yet if you will give mee leave to goe out of the Pallace, and send a trusty Messenger to him, to let him know that I have done his Command, hee will presens-

presently believe it, and repaire hither to seize the Pallace. So may you learne out the Truth. Onely command all in the Court to be quiet, that there may bee no intelligence given to prevent the Plot. This being agreed, he sends a speciall friend to *Plantian*, to bid him come quickly (now both Princes were slaine) before it were blazed abroad; that possessing the * *Ca-^{αχρόπο-}* *astle*, and feeling himselfe in the *Λεως.* Empire, he might get the Sovereignty in despite of all men. *Plantian* believing the Message, was full of hope, and putting on a Cuirace (for defence) under his Garments (the night being well spent) he posted in his Caroach to the Court, taking but a few with him, that supposed the Emperours had sent for him about extraordinary Affaires. Being entered the Royall pallace, with-
out

Plantian
the Traitor
betrayed.

out any stop (the Corps de guard knowing nothing of the busines) the Tribune meets him, and (of set purpose) salutes him Emperour; then taking him by the hand in friendly sort, he leads him to the Chamber, where he said hee had throwne the dead bodies of the Emperours; (*Severus* having appointed some of his Guard, as soone as hee entered the roome, to lay hands on him.) But *Plantian* (who little expected such a banquet) perceiving (when he was come into the Chamber) both the Emperours standing there, and that hee was taken in the manner, being horribly afraid, fell on his knees, and sought them not to misdeeme him; saying it was a meere Gull and Tricke put upon him. *Severus* exprobrating his Ingratitude, in rewarding

ding his many Honours and Favours in that sort ; and *Plautian* on the other side remembring him of his ancient love and approved Fidelity , the Emperour beganne by little and little to incline to believe him ; till his Cuirace was discerned by the opening of his Garment. Which *Antonine* espying, being a bold chollericke Youth, and bearing a grudge against him ; Sir (quoth he) what colourable answer can you make to these two poynts ? First you come to Vs (thus late) unsent for. Next, what is the meaning I pray of this Cuirace ? who uses to sup or banquet in Armour ? With that hee commands the Tribune, and the rest that were present, to dispatch him with their swords, as an open enemy. They (without dilay) did as the *Plautian* young
slaine.

young Emperour bade them, and threw his carcasſe into the High-way, to bee the ſcorne of them that hated him.

This end had *Plautian*, anſwerable to his exorbitant Life and Inſatiate Ambition. *Severus* henceforth made two Pretorian Prefects, and ſpent moſt of his Time in his Royall houſes in the Suburbs, or in the Sea-coaſt of * *Campania*, miniſtring † Juſtice, and attending State-Affaires. Hee was alſo exceeding carefull to have his Sonnes at *Rome*, bred in honourable faſhion. For he perceived they were more addicted to Playes and Games, than was agreeable to their Princely eſtate. The purſuit whereof, and their eager deſire to win, being ſtill accompanied with different ſucceſſe, and vehement altercation, distracted the

* The Region betwixt *Rome* and *Naples*.
† *Severus* was a good Law-giver.
S. Aur. Viſl. de Caſar.

the Brethrens affections, and inflamed them with Fire-brands of enmity and discord. But *Antonine* especially (now *Plautian* was made away) beganne to be intolerable in his behaviour, and formidable to all; using all possible meanes to destroy his wife, daughter to *Plautian*. But *Severus* sent her away with her brother into *Sicilie*, assigning them sufficient Maintenance to live plentifully (imitating *Augustus*, who dealt in like sort with *Antonius* sonnes, when he became his Enemy.)

And now he mainly laboured to reconcile his Sons, and reduce them to Vnity and Vnanimity*: *Remembring them out of old Sto- ties and Tragedies, of the disasters which befell to Brothers that were Princes, by such Dissentions. Hee shewed them how full of Money the*

Treasa-

Severus In-
struction to
his Sonnes.
**ὁμοθυμαδον.*

Treasuries and Temples were, so that they needed not to seeke for Wealth and Riches abroad, that had such abundance at home, whereby they might bountifullly reward the Souldiers at their pleasure: That the Romane Guards were quadrupled; and so puissant an Army lay before the City, that considering the Number of men at Armes, Hugenies of their bodies, and great store of treasure, no forraign power was able to come neere them: And yet all (he said) would come to nought, if they jarr'd & warr'd one with the other.

Thus did hee daily schoole them, and by sharpe reprehensions and faire speeches, strove all hee could to bring them to sobriety and temper. But all in vaine. For these unbridled Gallants, being in those first heats of youth, fliest in all kinde of Pleasures (by reason of their
Impe-

Imperiall State) became worse and worse, and were more at odds than ever, by the practices of their Parasites, who did not only base offices in serving their Lusts, but were also still projecting new Quarrells and Debates betwixt them for their own sinister ends. But *Severus* finding out divers of those bad Instruments, severely punisht them.

The Emperour being in great anguish of spirit, by reason of his Childrens unseemly and unprincipely Demeanour, received ^{Newes from Britaine.} Letters from his Vice-Roy of *Britaine*, cerifying, that the Barbarians there were risen, and had ranged over the Country, pillaging & wasting all before them: that he needed therfore greater Forces to defend the*Place; or <sup>*He means the Provi-
ciated part
of Britaine.</sup> rather, that his Imperiall Majesty should come in person.

Seve-

Severus was glad of this newes as naturally desirous of honour, and ambitious (after his Eastern and Northern Victories and Surnames) to make a Conquest of the *Britaines*. Ioyfull also hee was of so faue an occasion to take his Sonnes from *Rome*, and weane them from the Diet and Delights of the City, by inuring them to a sober military life. He proclaimed therefore his Expedition into *Britaine*, being now old and gowtie, but of more vigour and alacrity, than any in the flower of youth. In his Journey, he was carried (for the most part) in a *Siegetta*: and rested almost in no place. Having ended his Land travells, he imbarks (with his sonnes) for *Britaine*; where he arrived sooner than any thought or expected. Presently he commands a generall

*Severus ex-
pedition in-
to Britaine.*

rall Muster, and raising a great power, prepares for the Warre.

The *Britaines* much troubled at the Emperors sudden*arrival, * *Omnia repentina terrent.* and understanding that he meant to bring all those Forces against them, sent Embassadors to crave Peace, and excuse their Faults. But *Severus* seeking to protract time (lest hee should returne to *Rome* as he came) and being very eager of the Conquest and Sirname of *Britaine*, dismisses their Embassadors without *dispatch, * *ἀπρόχως.* and provides all warlike Ammunition. And to the end his soldiers might stand firme in fight, and bestirre themselves nimbly, and on sure ground; hee gave strict charge to make Causies and Bridges over the Marsh land: For the most part of that Region of the *Britaines*, being surrounded by the Oceans continuall

tinuall Irruption, is Fenny and Moorish. In those Bogges the
 * Barbarians use to swim and run
 up and downe, plunging them-
 selves to the middle; for being
 halfe-naked, they care not for
 Mire or Mud. They use not
 Vestures, but weare about their
 waists and neckes an Ornament
 of Iron, which they esteeme a
 rare accoutrement, and rich abi-
 liment (as other Barbarians doe
 Gold.) They pownce and paint
 their bodies with curious pi-
 ctures, and the shapes of all sorts
 of Creatures; in which regard,
 they are not clad all over, lest
 they should hide that brave Em-
 broderie. They are a most Marti-
 all * people, and very furious in
 fight: wherein they use onely a
 narrow Shield, a Pike, and a
 Sword hanging at their naked
 sides. As for Cuirace or Caske,
 they

* The Ro-
 manes sti-
 led all Bar-
 barians, but
 themselves
 and the
 Greeks.
 Description
 of Picts or
 Scots, a
 branch of
 the Britans.

Their Elo-
 gie.
 * μαχη-
 ται τοι τε χ
 ρονικω' τα-
 τοι.
 Sword and
 Pike the
 King and
 Queene of
 Weapons.

they use none at all; deeming they would but hinder them in traversing the pools and fennes; out of which the foggy vapours continually arising, make the sky in that Coast alwaies cloudy.

Severus hauing all things in readinesse that he desired, which might further the Romanes, or hinder & annoy the Barbarians, left his younger son *Geta* in that * part of the Ile, which was un-^{* Vir. at York} der the Romane obedience, to minister Iustice, and governe the State; appoynting (for his Assistance) his most ancient Friends and Counsellours; but tooke *Antonine* with him to the Warre against the Barbarians. The Armie (having past those rivers and Rampiers which determinate the Frontiers of the Romanes from the Barbarians) made certaine petty Skirmishes and

* *Severus*
lost fifty
thousand
in that Ser-
vice. *Dig.*

and Excursions, wherein they had still the better. But the enemies retreated at their pleasure into their Fastnesses among the Woods and Fennes (so familiar to them;) wherein they hid themselves; which being no small* detriment to the Romans, did spinne the Warre to a great length. Meanwhile *Severus*, being now very aged, fell into a languishing Disease, which forced him to keep home, and send *Antonine* to prosecute the warre. But hee little regarding the Barbarians, bended all his indeavours to win the Souldiers, perswading them to make him their Chief. For he vehemently aspired to sole Sovereign; to which purpose, hee still depraved and disvalued his brother. Hee was also much vext that his Fathers Disease was so lingring, and had
not

not made an end of him; wherefore he sollicitated his Physicians and Attendants to dispatch the old man, and mischiefe him (by any meanes whatsoever.) At last *Severus* departed this life, being consumed and pined away, rather * with Heart-griefe, * *Severus* dies for than any other malady; having griepe. beene the most famous Warriour of all the Emperours. For none ever got so many Victories over Civill and Forraigne Enemies. He deceased * in the eighteenth * *At Yorke,* yeare of his Raigne, leaving to *April. 4. An.* his young sonnes which succee. *Dom. 212.* ded him, such a Masse of Treasure, as never any did; and so puissant an Armie, as was unmatchedable.

Antonine (after *Severus* death) *Antonines* being now in supreme authority, instantly beganne to bathe *Cruelty.* himselfe in bloud: putting to death

death the Physicians for not hastening the old Emperors death (as he commanded) & killing his own & brothers foster. fathers, because they had mediated an Accord between them: not sparing any that either honoured his Father, or was honoured by him. He solicited also the chief Captaines and Commanders (with large gifts and promises) to perswade the Souldiers to proclame him sole Emperour: using all possible Traines and Mines against his brother. But the Souldiers would in no wise yield to it; for they well knew, that *Severus* had from their Infancie trained them in the same degree of honour; and therefore they were resolved to love and honour both alike. *Antonine* seeing hee could not prevaile with the Armie, made a League with

with the Barbarians; to whom having given peace, and received their Pledges, hee departed in all haste to his Mother and Brother. Being come together, their Mother [the Emperesse] and all the great Lords and Counsellours of State assai-
 ed to make them friends: where-
 upon *Antonine*, when he saw that all opposed his Designes, of constraint rather than willingly, yielded to a dissembled attone-
 ment. Then both the Brothers, ruling with equall Authority, sailed out of *Britaine*, and tooke their Journey to *Rome*; carry-
 ing with them their Fathers Re-Severus his
 liques. For his body being bur-Reliques.
 ned, the Ashes (mixt with sweet Odours) were bestowed in an Urne of Alabaster, which they tooke to *Rome*, to place it in the
 * sacred Sepulchers of the Em-ἱερὰ μνη-
ματα.

L perours.

*Antonine
and Geta
saile out of
Britaine.*

perours. They lead the Army
(as Conquerors of *Britaine*) and
landed in *Gallia*. Thus have we
shewed in this Booke, the man-
ner of *Severus* Raign and Death,
and how his Sonnes suc-
ceeded him in the
Empire.

The End of the third Booke.



HERODIAN
HIS IMPERIALL
HISTORIE.

The fourth Booke.

The Contents.

THe two Emperours enter Rome
in State. What Romane Empe-
rours Deified. Their solemn Obse-
quie and Funerall Triumph: Seve-
rus Deified: Wrestling: The Par-
tition of the Empire: The Empresse
Dowager kinders it: Antonine kills
Geta: His Prodigality and savage
Cruelty: His guilty Conscience:
His Exercises and Military Austeri-
ty: He acts Alexander and Achilles:
Hee is royally entertained at Alexan-
dria: He offers at Alexanders Shrine:
His Quarrell to the Alexandrians.
A fearfull Massacre: He pretends to
bee a Sniter to the King of Parthia's

Daughter; under which colour, hee massacres the Parthians: He consults with Magicians, and commands them to conjure: Hee is slaine: Macrinus succeeds: His Speech: A terrible battell betwixt the Romans & Parthians: Herald make a sudden League betwixt them.



He Acts of Severus the Emperour during the Eighteene yeares of his Reigne, we have related in the precedent booke.

The two Emperors take their Journey to Rome.

His Sonnes, who were yet young, hastned with their Mother towards *Rome*: but by the way, they fell to such Iarres, as that they neither lodged in the same house, nor eate together; being extreme jealous, lest they received poyson one from the other, in their Meats or Drinks; either secretly from themselves, or otherwise, by suborning their Servants. They made therefore
the

the more haste in their Iourney,
 as supposing they might both
 live more securely at *Rome*; and
 that the Imperiall Palace (which The Mag-
 nificent
 Pallace
 of the Em-
 perours. for Numerous and Gorgious
 Edifices, was larger than all the
 Citty) being disparted betwixt
 them; there would be roome
 enough for each of them to have
 his severall Court, and live as
 pleased himselfe.

Being come to *Rome*, the peo- They enter
Rome in
 State. ple received them with Laurels,
 and the Peeres welcomed them.

The Emperours themselves went
 formost; vested in Purple Robes
 of State. Next after them fol-
 lowed the *Consuls*, which sup-
 ported the *Vrne*, wherein were
Severus Reliques. The Nobles
 having saluted the new Empe-
 rours, passed along, and adored
 the *Vrne*: which having honou-
 red with great Pompe and Ce-
 remony, they shrined it in the

Temple, where the Sacred Monuments of *Marcus*, and the Emperours (before him) are to be seene. After the Divine Rites and Offices were celebrated, (as is accustomed at Imperiall Inaugurations) the Princes went to the Palace Royall; which dividing betwixt them, they dwelt apart, making fast all the secret passages; and using onely in common, the publicke Court-gates. They chose also severall Guards, and came not together, but for some small while, when they were to shew themselves to the people.

SEVERUS FUNERAL.

Yet had they speciall care to solemnize their Fathers Funerall with Glorious Ceremonies. For it is the manner of the Romans to Deifie those Emperours, which at their Decease leave their Sonnes to succeede them. This Solemnity they call, pla-

placing of the among the gods.

Over all the city there is a semblance of Mourning intermixt with that Divine Celebrity. For the dead corps is with sumptuous Exequies, buried as others usually are. Then in the Porch of the Palace, is erected on high, a state-ly bed of Ivory, spred with coverings of cloth of Gold; wheron is laid an Image of Waxe, made very like to the Defunct. This Image lies like a sicke person, pale & discoloured. On both sides of the bed, there sit most part of the day, on the left hand, all the most Honourable Lords, in black Vestures; on the right hand, all the Ladies of Honour ennobled by the Splendor of their Parents & husbands. None of which are adorned with gold or Jewels, but are vested in thinne white Rayment, after the guise of Mourners. This they doe seaven daies

The Ritual magnificence at the Funeralls and Deifications of Emperors.

* *ἱππικὸς
τάγματος.*

* *Via sacra:*
It reached
from the
Pallace to
the Forum,
which was
the chiefe
Place of
publicke
Meetings &
Pleadings.

* *Or Pæans*

*Campus
Martius.*

together. Meane-while, Physicians come often to the bed, as if they visited a Patient, saying stil, that he growes worse and worse. When he seems to be departed, the most noble young Gallants, among all the Senators, & * Order of Knight-hood, lift up the bed on their shoulders, and carry it through the * Sacred Street, to the old Forum; (where the Roman Magistrates use to resigne their Offices.) On both sides are Scaffolds erected: On the one part, is a Quire of Boyes of most noble birth and descent: opposite to them is a Quire of Ladies of prime Nobilitie: all which sing Hymnes and * Lauds over the defunct, with solemn mournfull Melody. Which done, they take up the bed againe, and carry it out of the City, to *Mars* his field; in the broadest place whereof is erected a *Frame*, of a Quadrangled

drangled *Æquilaterall* Forme,
 made like a little * House, confi-
 sting of no other Materials, but
 huge pieces of Timber compact
 together. Within, it is filled with
 dry wood: without, it is decked
 with Tapestry embrodered with
 Gold; with Ivory Statuaes, and
 Exquisite Pictures. In the lower
 part, is placed a lesser Structure,
 framed and beautified like the o-
 ther, with little gates and doores
 set open. There is also a third, and
 fourth roome; still lesser, and les-
 ser: and then, divers other; till
 you come to the last, which is
 least of all. Which kinde of Edi-
 fice, may bee resembled to the
 * *Light-Houses*, which by fire in
 the night, direct ships to a safe
 Harbor (vulgarly called *Pharos*.)
 The bed being brought into the
 second roome, they throw in (by
 heapes) all sorts of Spices, and
 sweet Odours, that the earth af-
 foords,

* οἶκημα-

τῶν.

The Fune-
rall Pile, or
Deificatory
Throne.* φρυκτα-
ρίαις.By these
Arabian
Spices and
Odours, &c.
there seems
to be in this
supreme So-
lemnity, an
Allusion to
the *Phanix*,
&c.

² *Elvros.*
(In which
sense the
Auteur u-
ses it per to-
tum.)

The Fune-
rall Dance
or Triumph

² Dancing
in Armour
invented by
K. Pyrrhus.
Plin Hist.
lib. 7. c. 36.

foords, and all kinde of fragrant
and odorate Fruits, Herbes, and
Gums : for there is not a * Pro-
vince, or City, or any Person of
Honor and Authoritie, which is
not ambitious to send these last
Presents, to the Honour of their
Prince. When a mighty Pile of
Aromatickes is amassed toge-
ther, so that all the place is full;
then, all of the Order of Knight-
hood, gallantly mounted on
horseback, ride round about the
Frame; wheeling to and fro, and
prancing in great bravery the
Pyrrhick Measures. In the same
stately manner, there ride about
the Frame, Purple Chariottiers,
representing the Persons, & bea-
ring the Images of the Noblest
Roman Worthies & Emperors.
Which Celebrity performed,
the Successor in the Empire takes
a Torch in his hand, and puts it
to the Frame. Then, all the mul-
titude

titude set fire to it on every side, and presently the whole Frame, filled with such combustible and odoriferous stuff, is al on a bright blaze. Immediately, from the top of the least and highest Turret (as from a Pinnacle) an Eagle is let flie into the Ayre, at the instant of the firing; which (as the Romans believe) carries the Emperors soule from earth to heaven. And ever after, they worship him among the other Gods.

An Eagle
let flie.

The young Emperours, after the solemne Deification of their Father, returning home, the flames of discord burst out againe; which growing to a deadly Feud, they plotted all manner of wayes to surprize and entrap one another, each attempting all possible meanes to make away the other, that he might be sole Emperor. Yea the minds and affections of all the Cittizens of
grea-

Severus De-
ified.

The Character of
Geta and
Antonine.

Wrestling
a Princely
Sport.

greatest Power and Dependencie were infinitely distracted; both the Emperours sending (in secret) their different Letters, and seeking to win and wedge men to their severall factions, by faire promises. But the maior part inclined to *Geta*, because he shewed some sparks of Noble Honesty, and was mild and affable in Conversation, and used Honourable Studies. For he had still about him Learned men, and was frequent at Wrestling, and other ingenious Exercises. He was also full of Humanitie and Courtesie towards all: & of so gracefull & Princely behavior, that the same and good opinion of him drew most mens affections to him. But *Antonine* bore himsele in a harsh and rugged fashion; and being altogether averse from the things before recited, affected the reputation of a Martialist & Man of Warre.

Warre. Whereupon, doing all things in Choller and Fury, hee sought rather to winne men by Threatning than Intreating, and by Feare than Love. Their mother seeing them so discordant in all their Actions (even of least Consequence) assayed to reconcile them, but in vaine. Whereupon, they (once) resolved to share the Empire betwixt them, least residing still at *Rome*, they should be circumvented by each other.

The Em-
pire divided

Wherefore having assembled their Fathers Kinsmen & Counsellors of State, they debated (in their Mothers presence) how to make the Partition: Where all *Europe* was adjudged to *Antonine*, and all the opposite coast called *Asia*, was assigned to *Geta*: (for so hath it pleased the Divine Providence to distermine both Continents by the **Propontick Gulfe*.) It was also, agreed that

* Of this
Vid. Strab.
lib. 2. and
the Travels
of that no-
ble learned
Gentleman
M. George
Sandys. pag.
27. --quem
pulcher A-
pollo,
Omnes per
montes, atq;
antra per
omnia duxit

Anto-

Antonines Campe should lye at *Byzantium*: and *Getaes* at *Chalcedon*, a City in *Bithynia*: that the Armies facing each other (in those Frontire Townes) might guard the Dominions of both, and forbid the Passage by Sea: [*Chalcedon* being situate over against *Byzantium*, in the mouth of *Pontus Euxinus*.] It was likewise ordered, that the Senators and Nobles which were *Europeans*, should reside at *Rome*; the rest should follow *Geta*; who destined *Antioch* or *Alexandria* (which were not much lesse than *Rome*) for the chief seat of his Empire; & was content to leave to *Antonine* the Provinciated Moors and Numidians of the South (with the bordering nations of *Africk*) taking to himselfe the Countries (beyond) towards the Orient. While they were thus parting the Empire * by the Map, all the Lords

* ΣΙΩΤΟ-
ΠΟΥΤΩΥ.

Lords being much grieved at it, their Mother *Iulia* thus interrupted them ; *O my Sonnes, you have found the way to divide Sea and Land ; and the Ponticke Gulfe (as you say) parts both Continents : But how will you divide your Mother ? How shall I (Wretched Woman!) be torne & mangled betwixt you ? First therefore kill me outright, and divide me (each of you taking his part) that I also (with Sea and Land) may bee divided betweene you.* Having thus said, with many teares, she caught hold of them both (with a loud shriek) and clasping them in her Armes, with great violence of affection, endeavoured to reconcile them. Which piteous sight stricke such a horreur into all ; that the * Counsell was dismiss, the Proposition quite dash't, and the Princes returned to their severall Palaces. Yet was there no hope of Reconcilement, but still their

The Em-
presses
Speech to
her Sonnes.

* συνιδεισιν.

their irrelenting Fury increased. At the Elections of Vice-Royes and Presidents, each preferred his Friend; and when they sat in Iudgement, they were of different Opinions; to the infinite losse of those which had Causes to be heard; for they more regarded Partiallity, than Iustice or Equitie. Yea, at Sports & Games they were still of contrary sides. Neither did they forbear any sort of Treachery; but dealt cuffs with their severall Cooks and Cup-bearers, to poison each other. Which not taking effect, because of the ordinary care and caution of both at their Table; at last *Antonine* having lost all patience, and resolved to raigne alone, intends to murder his brother. For seeing his secret plots succeeded not, he determined in despite of all danger, to breake through all difficulties. Wherefore

Wherefore rushing into his brothers Chamber (who thought not of him) hee slew him in his mothers armes, who was all embrewed with his bloud. Which done, he leaps forth, and running through all the Court, cries out, he had like to have beene murdered, and hardly escaped. Then he commands his Gaurd to convey him presently into the camp to save his life; saying, he should instantly be slaine, if he stayed there. They beleeving what hee said, and not knowing what was don within, ran along with him.

*Antonine
kills Geta.*

The City was extremely terrified at the Emperours running thorow the City in the evening. As soone as he got to the Camp, he went to the Chappell, where the Ensignes and Images of the army are kept with religious veneration, and falling flat on the earth, thanked the Gods for his great

*He fies to
the Campe.*

great deliverance. Which when the Souldiers heard (that were then either bathing, or gone to their Rest) they all flockt thither in amazement. *Antonine* going among them, confest not presently what he had done, but cryed out amaine, that he had escaped a dangerous plot of his Capitall Enemie (meaning his Brother) and that with much adoe, after a long Conflict, his Adversaries were overcome: in which fight, both being ingaged, himselfe at last (thanks to his good Fortune) remained sole Emperour: By which darke and intortled Speeches, he meant they should rather ghesse at what was done, than directly understand him. Then (to secure himselfe and the Empire)

* 80.li. (aut
præter-prop-
ter.)

His Prodigality.

he promised to every Souldier, two * thousand five hundred Attique Drachmaes, and double the Wheat they were wont to have: bid.

bidding them go themselves immediately and take the Mony out of the Temples and Treasuries. Thus did he in one day squander away all the Coyne that *Severus* had raked out of others ruines, in eightene yeares. The Souldiers allured with such a Masse of money, and understanding how the world went, (the murther being now divulged by them that fled out of the Court) Proclaimed him sole Emperor, (terming *Geta* a traitor.) *Antonine* stayed that night in the Temple, and taking heart (as having by these Donatives assured the Souldiers) he repaired (the next day) to the Senate-house, with all his Army, which was better armed than in the usuall Attendance on the Prince. Having sacrificed, he mounted the Imperiall Throne, and thus spake:

Antonines

*Antonine's Speech to the
Senate.*

I Am not ignorant how odious and
subject to calumnie the Murder of
Domesticks is at the first Bruit : for
Men are apt to pittie them that suffer,
and to maligne the Actors : so that he
which is vanquished may bee thought
to be wronged, and the Victor to have
done the wrong. But if Men looke
into the Matter with cleere judge-
ments, not clouded with favour to the
defunct, but rightly weighing his cause
and ballancing his purpose, they will
soone discern that it is farre more rea-
sonable and necessary to revenge, than
receive an Injurie : (the Party slaine
being (withall) so egregious a coward,
and the Victor so bravely valorous, as
appeares by the Event.) What peril-
lous Plots hee had on foot against me,
both by Poysons, and all sorts of trea-
cherous practises, you may soone finde
by the torture of his Servants, whom
I have therefore commanded to bee
brought hitber, that you may know the
truth. Divers of them have beene

examined already; whose Confessions
 you may heare. The truth is, I being
 with my Mother, he and others rusht
 in upon me, with drawne swords: but
 I shrewdly suspecting it (my mind mis-
 giving me) prevented it, and slew him
 as a Traitor: for certes hee had not
 the affection or disposition of a brother:
 Now as it is an act of Iustice to bee
 revenged on such dangerous persons,
 so are there good Precedents for it.
 Romulus, the first Founder of this Ci-
 ty, would not indure his owne brother,
 *that did but jest at his endeavours. I ^{* Vid. Liv.}
 omit Germanicus, brother to Nero; ^{& Aurel.}
 and Titus, brother to Domitian. Mar- ^{Victor. de}
 cus himselfe, that made such a faire ^{Orig. Gent.}
 Flourish of Philosophy and Human-
 ity, would not suffer the affront of *Lu- * There
 cius, his Sonne in law; but secretly was a Re-
 dispatcht him. And so have I antici- ^{port that}
 pated (by a just Vindication) the Poy- ^{Marcus Au-}
 sons and Sword of an Enemy: (for ^{relins poy-}
 so his Deeds stile him.) You are ther- ^{soned him,}
 fore to thanke the Gods, that have re- ^{but (as Au-}
 served you such a Prince, under whose ^{relins Victor}
 sole Regiment you may now live qui- ^{saith) none}
 etly and securely, without Distracti- ^{but lewd}
 ons: For as Iupiter is the onely Em- ^{persons be-}
 perour ^{lieved it.}

perour among the Gods, so hath hee decreed that there shall bee but one Emperour among Men.

His Savage
Cruelty.

Having thus said with a loud Voice (in great rage) and casting a terrible frowne on his brothers friends, he leaves the Senatours (most whereof lookt pale and trembled) and hurries to the Palace: where he instantly slew all his brothers servants & friends, not sparing any Officers that were found in the House, nor any other, no not very Infants: All whose Carkasses being despightfully throwne into Carts, and carryed out of the City, were cast by heaps (at randome)

*They had
not the ho-
nour of a
decent Fu-
nerall.

into the * fire. Hee spared none that had the least acquaintance with *Geta*; but put to the sword, even Wrestlers, Charriot-drivers, and all kinde of Players and Actors, that had any way delighted him, by seeing or hea-
ring

ring them. He slew also the most eminent and opulent Senatours, upon the least suspicion or suggestion, that they were friends to his brother. He put to death *Commodus* his Sister (who was then an old woman, and had bin much honoured of all the Emperours, because she was *Marcus* his Daughter;) imputing it as a crime, that shee wept with his Mother at her Sonnes Murther. Nor did hee forget his *quondam* Wife (*Plautians* Daughter) that lived in *Sicily*; nor his Couzen-german, named *Sevecus*; nor *Per-tinaxes* Sonne; nor the Sonne of *Lucilla* (Sister to *Commodus*) but cut them all off, together with all the Imperiall Kindred, and the flower of the Nobility and Gentry. Then sent he into the Provinces, and massacred all the Presidents and Procurators, as *Geta's* Favourites. Yea, whole
Nights

Nights were spent in such Tragickall executions of all sorts of people. Hee buried the Vestall Virgins quicke, pretending they had lost their Virginity. Lastly (which was never done before)

* Instituted
in honour
of Neptune.

Vid. Al. ab
Alex. Gen.
Die. lib. 6.
cap. 19.

when at the Circensian * Sports (where himself was a spectator) the people cast some scoffe at a Charriotier which he favoured, he taking it as an affront to himselfe, suddenly commanded his Men at armes to rush among the Multitude, and kill all that had scorned the Charriot-driver. Upon this Command, it being impossible to find out the Delinquents, in so great a throng (no man confessing himselfe guilty) the Souldiers spared none that they light upon, but either slew them, or tooke away that they had in lieu of Ransome. After all which hainous Acts, his conscience recoyling, and shrewdly

His guilty
Conscience

stinging

stinging him, he was weary of the City life, and resolved to leave *Rome*, upon colour to reforme the Legions, and visit the Provinces. Departing therefore from *Italy*, he came to the banks of *Ister*, and the Northern parts of the Empire; where he exercised himselfe in Coach-races and combating with all kind of Wilde-beasts. Sometime he sat in judgement (though very seldom) where, after a few words on either side, he presently gave Sentence. He much affected the Germanes, and made them his Confederates and Associates in warre; choosing from among them, the most valiant and personable, to bee of his Guard. Yea, he oft laid aside his Roman habit, and put on Germane attire, going abroad in their Cassockes trimmed with Silver; and wearing a yellow Periwig, like

M the

His Exercises.
His affection to the Germanes,

His Milita-
ry Austerity

the Germane bush. Which affected Garbe infinitely indeared him to the Barbarians. And the Roman Army was well pleased, by reason of his profuse Donatives, and because he descended to the performance of all Military labours in his owne person; for hee would first dig (when neede required) and if a bridge were to bee made over a River, or a Rampire to be cast, or any Manuary worke or toyle to bee undertaken, he would be the first that should put his hand to it; contenting himselfe with a spare Diet, wooden cups and platters, and any bread whatsoever: for his manner was, to take so much wheat as would suffice one man, which he grinded himselfe, and then kneading it into Cakes, and baking it on the Embers, eat it. Briefe, hee left off all manner of Iunkets and delicates, faring no
Other.

otherwise than the poorest common souldier. Moreover, it pleased him better (as he pretended) to bee called Fellow-souldier, than Emperour; accustoming himselfe to travel on foot (as the rest did) and rarely using Horse or Caroach; carrying also his owne Armes, and many times, the Great Imperiall Standard; which being marvellous weighty, by reason of the rich and Massie Gold-worke, was not easily borne by the strongest Ancient-bearer. For these and the like observances, the army loved him as a good Souldier, and honoured him as a brave Commander. And indeede it was a wonder, that so small a timberd man, was able to do so great matters. But when he had visited the Legions upon the banks of *Ister*, and went downe into *Thrace*, which borders on *Macedonia*, he

He acts *Alexander* then began to play *Alexander*;

reviving that Kings Memory, by all meanes possible, causing his Statues and Images to be erected in every City, and filling *Rome* it selfe, the Capitoll, and all the Temples with them. I have seen also divers ridiculous Images, which had one entire Body, and one Head, which had two halfe-faces, to wit, *Alexanders* and *Antonines*. His ordinary Weare, was

* *καυσαίαν*. the Macedonian Habit, a * Turban on his head, and Pantofles on his feet. He had a select troop of young Souldiers, which hee stiled the *Macedonian Phalanx*, commanding his Captaines to call themselves by the names of *Alexanders* Captaines. Hee sent for Youths from *Sparta*, and termed them the *Laconicke* and * *Pitanite Band*. After this, having made the Townes and Cities tenable, he went to *Pergamus* a Citie

*Of the City *Pitane* in *Laconia*.

tie in *Asia*, to take Physicke of *Æsculapius*; where having done as his Fancie led him, he marched straight to * *Ilium*, to view * *Troy*. the Ruines of it, and visit *Achilles* Tombe; w^{ch} having bravely decked with flowers and garlands, hee then would needs act *Achilles*: but wanting a *Patroclus*, hee played this Prank. He had with him one *Festus*, his most beloved Freed-man, and the Imperiall Remembrancer, who died while he was at *Ilium*, being (as some say) poysoned, that hee might have such a Funerall as * *Patro-* * *He acts A-*
clus: but others say, he dyed na- *chilles.*
cl. Hom.
Iliad l. 23.
 turally. How ever, he commanded his corps to bee brought forth, and a great Funerall Pile to be made; wheron having cast the dead body, and killed of all manner of beasts, he set the Pile on fire, and lifting up a Viall, sacrificed Wine, and prayed to the
 M 3 Winds.

* This was
an ancient
Funerall
rite. *Vid.*
Euseb. 1ph.
Method. 1. 7.
69 Stat. in
Epiced pat
Sylla and
Anniball.

Winds. But when he was to cast his haire * also into the flame, having a very thin *Bush naturall*, all the Company laught: yet he made a sorry shift, and cut of all the haire he had. Of all Generals, he commended chiefly the Roman *Sylla*, and African *Annibal*: whose Images and Statues he erected.

Departing from *Ilium*, and passing thorow *Asia*, *Bithynia*, and other Provinces (where hee settled his Affaires) hee came to *Antioch*; where being honourably entertained, and having stayed a certaine time, he sent to *Alexandria*, pretending he had a great longing to see the City which *Alexander* founded; as also, to consult the God which the Citizens so much honored. Upon these two Pretexts, to wit, the Adoration of their Deity, and Veneration of that Heroes Memory

Memory, hee gave order that
 * Hecatombes and Sacrifices (of
 all sorts) should bee prepared a-
 gainst his Comming. Which
 Message being delivered to the
 Alexandrians (who are natural-
 ly Cocke-brain'd and light-hea-
 ded) they were almost beside
 themselves for joy that the Em-
 perour was so devoted to them:
 They made therefore such roy-
 all preparations for his Enter-
 tainment, as the like (they say)
 was never made for any Prince.
 All manner of exquisite Musick
 and curious Melody was heard
 over all the City: All his Passa-
 ges were perfumed with all sorts
 of precious Odors and Aroma-
 tickes. Torches were lighted,
 and all the way strewed with
 Gelsomines and Muske roses.
 The Emperour entred the Ci-
 ty with all his Army, and first
 went to the Temple, where ha-
 ving

* Sacrifices
 of an hun-
 dred Oxen.

His royall
 entertain-
 ment at A-
 lexandria.

His Offer-
tory at *Alexanders*
Shrine.

* *εὐφροσύνη*

His secret
quarrell to
the *Alex-*
andrians.

The *Alex-*
andrians
described.

ving sacrificed Hundreds of
Beeves, and burnt Heapes of In-
cense on the Altars, he visited
Alexanders Shrine; where he of-
fered his Purple Robe, his Rings
set with Paragon Stones, his
Belt, Scarfe, and choicest Jew-
ells he had about him: all which
he laid upon his Tombe, where-
at the *Alexandrians* being* over-
joyed, revelled and feasted day
and night, little dreaming what
a banquet the Emperour would
shortly make them. For all this
Piausibilitie was meerely colou-
rable; his Intendment being to
make a generall Massacre among
thē. The cause of his secret ran-
cour was this: It was told him
at *Rome* in his brothers time, and
after his death, that the Citizens
of *Alexandria* had spoken dis-
gracefully of him. Indeed they
are naturally a very scurrilous
People, and much given to gi-
bing

bing and giering of others; casting out against the most eminent Persons, many cutting Quips, which themselves thinke are fine conceits; but they against whom they are spoke, take them as great Indignities. For those jests are most biting, that have most relish of truth. Having therefore much traduced him for his brothers murther, nicknamed his mother *Iocasta*, and scost him, for that being such a low Grig, he would presume to personate such High and Mighty * Heroes as *Alexander* and *Accilles*; they did so enrage *Antonine*, who (by nature) was of a fiery and sanguinary disposition, that while they thus sported themselves with their Squibs and Flashes, he intended to lash them with a terrible Revenge. Wherefore the Festivall Celebrity being ended, he perceiving what an infinite

* Or Semi-Gods.

number were come together into the City, out of the Regions adjoyning, made Proclamation, that all the Youths should assemble themselves in a certaine Plaine; that as he had already a Macedonian & Spartan *Phalanx*; so also he might (in honor of *Alexander*) have another *Phalanx*; named (after him) *Alexandrian*. He willed therefore that the yong men should be so ranked that a Lane might bee left for him to walke and take a View, which were fittest for Age, Strength, & Stature, to serve in the wars. This being beleevved (as very probable) in regard of the high honor he had so lately done to *Alexander*, all the yonkers accompanied with their Parents and Couzens, met at the place assigned, with great joy and alacrity. *Antonine* passing thorow all the Ranks, and perusing them severally,

rally, commended first one, and then another; protracting the time, till his whole army had rounded them (ere any observed it or thought of it.) As soone as he wist that they were all circled by his men of war, and taken (as it were) in a toile, he presently departs (with his Guard) and makes a signall to the Army; *Alexandri-
ans massa-
cred.* which instantly rushing in on every side, make a furious slaughter of the unarmed Youths, and all the rest that were enclosed; some of the Souldiers employing themselves onely in killing, other in throwing the dead bodies into huge deep Pits, whereon casting much earth, they made a huge great Mount. Many were thrust in halfe dead; and not a few were buried quicke. There perisht also many of the Souldiers: For they which had any breath left in their bodies, and had

had not lost all their vigour, caught hold of the Souldiers that flung them in, and haled them with them into the graves. So great was the slaughter, that streames of blood gushing through the Plaine, died the Mouth of *Nilus*, and the shore about the City with Purple gore. And now affecting the Sirname of *Parthicus*, and the honour of Conquering the Orientall Barbarians (though they lived in * profound Peace) he layes this Plot. He sends Letters to *Artabanus* the King of *Parthia*, and Embassadours with stately Presents; Certifying them, that he was desirous to have his daughter to wife; that he was an Emperor, and Sonne to an Emperor, and was not minded therefore to be Sonne in Law to any Subject, or meane person, but rather to espouse a Queene, or some great Princessse; that the Roman and Parthicke

* *ἐπιφύμιος*
Labeias.

An embaf-
sy to the
Parthians.

thicke Empires were the two greatest in the world, which if (by affinity) they were united, & their powers conjoynd, (without any Barre or Let by Rivers or otherwise) they would become absolutely Invincible; that the Barbarian nations subject to both Empires, would be more manageable, if every severall Countrey and City had governours of their owne Nation; that the Roman Infantery and Pike-men excelled all others in set Battel; that the Parthian Cavalery and Archers, exceeded for number and Skill. Both which concurring with correspondent Military valour, and all Warlike necessities, would easily reduce the whole World to an entire Monarchy under one Diadem. And whereas those Countries yeilded Spices, Odours and the finest Silkes; and the Roman dominions abounded in all kind of Mineralls, and Manufactures, which (in the division) Merchants imported but by stealth,
and

Parthian
Archers.

and very seldome; were this Vnion effected, on one sole Empire constituted, there would follow by mutuall Trafficke and Amitie, a happy intercourse, without impeachment, or impediment.

The Parthians Answer.

The Parthian having read these Letters, refused the offer at first, saying; That it was very inconvenient for the Roman & Barbarian Princes to match together, for what concord could there be in so different Language, Diet, and Habite? that the Emperour might finde at Rome, many of great Nobility, and Extraction, not unworthy his Affinitie; as himselfe had likewise among his Peeres and * Arfacida, and that it was not fit that either of their Races should be Mungreliz'd in that manner. This was his first answer to the Emperors proposition: but Antonine reinforcing his suite, & by many gifts and solemn oaths confirming his zealous affection and.

*Princes of the bloud descended of King Arsaces.

and desire of Marriage; The Barbarian King yeelded (at last) and promising to give him his Daughter, called him, *His son in law that should be*. Which newes being divulged, all the Barbarians prepared to entertaine the King of the Romanes; and rejoyced in hope of an eternall Peace. Whereupon *Antonine* *Antonine enters Parthia.* passing the Rivers without opposition, progressed over *Parthia* (as if it had been his own Countrey) the Natives every where entertained him with Sacrifices, crowned Altars, and most exquisite sweet Odours; which hee made shew to bee exceedingly affected with. Approching after a long March to the Court of *Artabanus*, the King goes forth to meet the Bridegroom (his Son in law) in a faire Plaine before the City, attended with a wondrous company of Barbarians,

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ans, wearing Chaplets of flowers and divers coloured Vestures of wrought Gold; frolicking and dancing to the Musicke of Flutes, Pipes, and Timbrells; for with these Revells they are marveilously delighted, especially when they are well tiple. Now when the greatest concourse of people was come together, and the Barbarians (having left their horses, bowes, and arrowes) were feasting and carousing (at randome) and misdeeming nothing, thronged and crowded together to see the royal Bridegroom; *Antonine* made a signe to his souldiers to flie upon them and murther them. The Barbarians amazed at this, gave back and fled; the Romans following the Chase, killing and wounding them. *Artabanus* himself being rescued by his Guard, and set on Horseback, had much
 a doe

The Par-
 thians mas-
 sacred,

adoc to escape with a few of his Courtiers. The Remainder of the Barbarians were put all to the sword ; for they had neither horses (which they most needed) having turned them to pasture ; nor could they runne away, being hindred by their loose Garments, which reached downe to the foot, nor had they with them their Bowes and Arrowes ; for what should they doe with them at a Wedding ? Thus after a mighty Massacre of the Barbarians, *Antonine* taking magnificent Spoyles, and many Prisoners, departs without any resistance ; burning Townes and Cities as he went, and licensing the Souldiers to take what pillage and booty they listed. This blow the Barbarians received ere they lookt for it. *Antonine* having harried and wasted the Parthian Countrey (till his souldiers

diers were weary) retreits into *Mesopotamia*, and from thence certifies the Romane Senate and People, that hee had conquered all the Orient, and reduced all those Kingdomes under his obedience. The Senate, albeit they wel knew how things went (* for it is impossible that a Princes actions should be concealed) yet out of feare and flattery they decreed to him all Triumphall Honors. And now did *Antonine* keepe his Court in *Mesopotamia*, wholly devoting himselfe to Charriot-races, and Combates with all sorts of Wilde beasts. He had two Generalls of his army; the one was very aged, and though no great Statesman, yet a good Martiall man. His name was *Audentius*. The other (called *Macrinus*) was well seen in points of State, and an excellent Lawyer. Him the Prince did oft shrewd-

* λαθεῖν γὰρ
ἔργα βασι-
λέως αὐτοῦ-
14707.

shrewdly checke and taunt (in publicke) as a man of no spirit or valour, giving him very contumelious tearmes. For understanding that he kept a good table, and loathed the course Viands that himselfe delighted in (like a souldier) and that he used to weare a short * Cloake, and other City attire; he called him ^{* χαλῶσιον.} an effeminate Coward, and continually threatned to kill him. Which *Macrinus* taking to heart, was mightily intraged. Now there fell out this Accident (for at last *Antonine* was to leave the Stage.) Beeing naturally curious and inquisitive to know not onely the secrets of Men, but of Gods also, and Dæmons; and suspecting that all intended Treason against him, hee consulted all Oracles, and sent ^{Magicians} farre and neere for Magicians, ^{consulted.} Astrologers, and Wizzards: not one

Conjuring.

* ἐπιβου-
λευειν.

one escaping him, that professed those Curious Arts. But misdoubting that they all lyed, and prophesied falsely (to sooth him in his humour) hee writes to one *Maternianus*, to whom hee had committed the Government of the State at *Rome*; and (as to his most confident friend) hee had imparted all his secrets; willing him to inquire out the chiefe Magicians and Conjurers that were to be found, and to demand of the Spirits that were raised, how long hee had to live; and whether any intended to surprise the empire. *Maternianus* obeying his Cōmand, (whether the Spirits signified so much, or whether he plotted so against *Macrinus*;) writes back to *Antonine*, that *Macrinus** insidiously aspired to the Empire, and that therefore hee should make him away.

Having sealed these Letters (among

mong others) hee delivers them
(as usually he did) to the Posts
that knew nothing of the Con-
tents. They with wonted speede
arrive at the Emperours Court,
at the very instant of his begin-
ning his Charriot-race, (for hee
was now entring the Charriot)
and deliver him the Packet,
wherein the Letters (touching
Macrinus) were. But *Antonine's*
minde being wholly fixt on his
present * Sports, he bids *Macri-* Charriot-
nus take the Letters and peruse races a great
them, and if there were any mat- sport in
ters of Weight, to certifie him; those daies
otherwise to attend his Charge
as he was wont, (thus he oft used
to doe:) And so he hurries away
in his Chariot. *Macrinus* retiring
himselſe, broke up the severall
Letters, and fell upon that which
aimed at his destruction. Percei-
ving therefore that his danger
was great and impendent; and
well

well knowing *Antonines* ferall Cruelty (especially having so faire a Pretext) he reserves that Letter to himselfe , and (as his manner was) acquainted the Prince with the Contents of the rest. But fearing, lest *Maternianus* should write againe of the same Businesse , he resolved rather to *doe* than *suffer*; and thus he plots: There was one *Martial*, a * Cen-
 turion , and one of *Antonines* Guard, that still waited on him; whose brother was a few dayes before, executed by the Prince, upon bare Information (without proote or proceesse) who had also called *Martial* himselfe, *Base Coward* , and *Macrinus* his *Favo-rite* (in scorne.) This man being infinitely grieved at his brothers death , and enraged with those reproaches, *Macrinus* (who knew all the Passages) sends for; repo-
 sining in him, as having beene formerly

* A Cap-
 taine of an
 hundred
 men.

merly his Servant, and obliged to him by many singular Favours. Him he perswades to kill *Antonine*, upon the first Opportunity. Whereupon allured with *Macrinus* Promises, and instigated with his owne Quarrell, and his brothers Revenge, he undertakes to effect it, as soone as was possible. Shortly after it fell out, that *Antonine* lying at *Carra* in *Mesopotamia*, went from his Palace to visite the Temple of the * Moone, (a good distance from the City) which Goddesse is honoured by the Natives with great Devotion. Taking with him but a small Troop of Horse (not troubling the whole army) he went on his Journey, purposing (when he had sacrificed) to returne to the City. In the Midway, hee went aside to his Ease-ment, taking but a Page along with

Carra in
Mesopotamia.

* Of *Luna*
and *Lunus*
see *M. Selden*, de *Dijis*
Syris.

with him. Whereupon all turning their faces, and going a great way off (for Honours sake) *Martial*, who watched every minute of opportunitie, as soone as he perceived the Prince was all alone, runs instantly (as if he had beckoned to him to doe somewhat) and stabs him behind with a Stiletto, (as he was uncovering himself.) The wound being mortall, he was suddenly flaine without recovery. Which done, *Martial* takes horse and flies. But the Germane Horsemen which *Antonine* much delighted in, and used for his Guard, being next at hand, and the first that saw what was don, pursued him, and thrust him thorow with their Iavelins. When the report heereof was brought to the Army, they all ran together to the place; where *Macrinus* was the first that fell a weeping and wailing (dissemblingly

Antonine
flaine.

blingly) over the dead body. The Souldiers tooke his Death very heavily, accounting they had lost a deare friend and companion rather than a Prince: and not conceiting any thing of *Macrinus* his Treason, they thought *Martial* had done it in his owne quarrell: and so they all returned to their Tents: *Macrinus* having burnt the corps, sent his Ashes in an Urne to his mother to bury it. Shee was then at *Antioch*, and for grieve of her childrens disasters, slew her selfe; whether voluntarily or by compulsion, is uncertaine. This End had the Emperor *Antonine*, and his Mother *Julia*, having lived in that manner (as I have related) hee having raigned fixe yeares alone (without his Father or Brother.)

Antonine extinct, the Souldiers being all in a Maze, were two dayes without an Emperour, de-

N

bating

bating who was fittest to be elected: For they had Intelligence, that *Artabanus* was marching with a mighty Army to be revenged on them, and to Sacrifice them to the Ghosts of them they had treacherously slaine in the time of Peace and Festivall Solemnitie. They proceed therefore to Election: and first they make choice of *Audentius*, a man bred up in the Warres, and a good commander. But he alledging he was super-annate, refuses the Empire; wherupon they elect *Macrinus*, by the perswasion especially of the * Tribunes, who (after his death) were suspected to have beene accessary to *Antoninus* Murther, and of *Macrinus* Councel, (as in the Sequelle shall bee declared) Thus was *Macrinus* made Emperour, not so much by the Souldiers Love and Fidelitie, as by urgent Necessitie.

Audentius
refuses the
Empire.

* Coronels
or Serjeant-
Majors.

Macrinus
Elected.

Necessitie. Presently after, *Artabanus* approached with his forces, leading a huge Army, consisting of great troopes of Horsemen and Archers, as also Riders on Camels (in compleate Armour) with extraordinary long Lances. Whereupon *Macrinus* assembling his Souldiers, made this Speech:

Macrinus his Speech to
the Army.

IT is no marvell that you all grieve so much for the death of so gracious a Prince, or Companion rather. But it is the part of Wisemen to take humane Chances and Calamities patiently. His memory shall be ever deare and precious among us; and his brave and noble Acts, and singular love and respect to you (with whom hee so familiarly conversed) shall to his eternall Glory be recorded to Posterity. And now having duely honoured his memory, and performed his Funerall solemnity, it concernes us all to looke to our
N 2 selves,

selves, & prevent the present danger. The Barbarian (you see) is at hand with all the Power of the Orient, having (in his owne conceit) a just Cause and Quarrell against us. For we first provokt him by infringing the league, and Warring on him in time of publike Peace and Security. And now all the Roman Empire depends on your valor & fidelitie: For we are not to fight with this Great King about the Borders or Skirts of the Empire, or about Rivers; but for all our fortunes; hee being come to revenge his Children and Kinsmen which we (as he opines) have slaine unjustly, and contrary to our Oaths. Let us therefore take armes and (as Romans are wont) keepe our Ranks; for this confused Barbarous rent, being not well marshalled nor trained, is like enough to bee us owne overthrow. But your good Order, Discipline, and Martiall skill in fight, will both preserve yourselves, and defeat the Enemie. Wherefore charge couragiously, like worthy Romans, and as you are wont; so shall we vanquish the Barbarians, and winne great Honor; for then will it go curant with the
Re-

Romans, and all the world; that we did not pilfer the former victory, by fraud, treachery, and perjurious violation of the League, but by force of Armes, and true valour.

Having thus said, the souldiers seeing in what a * straight they * The Romans fear'd were, put themselves in Battalia, the Parthians more and were [all night] in armes. At ans more Sun rising, they descry *Artabanus* than any other nation: and his huge hoste advancing. Reade the letter in the beginning of the next Booke. When the Barbarians had done their devotions to the Sun (after their usuall guize) they ran upon the Romans with a terrible shout, & riding close to them, discharged their arrowes among them. The Battell betwixt the Romans & Parthians.

The Romanes having arranged their battels in such exquisite order, that the Corners of horse, & Moresco Darters, flanked each side, & the light armed souldiers had lanes made between the severall Maniples, to sally forth as occasion served, with great cou-

rage received the charge of the Barbarians. Nevertheless, they were extremely galled with continuall shot of Arrowes, and gored with the long Lances, of the armed horsmen, & camell-men. Yet when the Romanes fought hand to hand, they did easily put them to the worse. But finding themselves overpressed by multitudes of horses & Camels, making semblant to retireit; they strewed the way wth calthropes, and other sharpe poynted Iron engines, which being covered with sand, and not discerned, did great hurt to the Lanciers, & camel riders. For the Horses, and especially the camels (which are tender hoofe) as soone as they trode on them, halted downe-right, and cast their Riders. The Barbarians, while they are mounted on Horses or Camels, fight grimly. But dismounted, they

they are soon taken, for they dare not come to hand-strokes; and if they be driven to fly, or pursue the enemy, their long loose garments are a maine let to them.

Thus all the first and second day they fought from morning till evening. Night parting them, both sides retired to their camps as victors. The third day, they joyned battell in the selfe same plaine; where the Barbarians (being the greater number) assayed to wheele about, and *inclose the

Romans; who perceiving their purpose, extended not their army in length, but dilated it in Front, and so prevented their circumvention. Now there fell such an infinite number of men & beasts, that all the field was cover'd with them, insomuch, that huge heaps and piles of carcases (but especially of camels) lay one upon another, so high, that the Souldiers

* Or take
in a Net.
or lured

could not come together to fight, both the Armies being hindred from passing one to the other, by a mightie and almost impassable Barracado of carcases; whereupon they retreated to their severall Campes.

Macrinus understanding that the onely cause why *Artabanus* fought so fiercely and obstinately, was because he supposed hee warred against *Antoninus*; (for the Barbarians were wont, if they prevailed not at first, to droope and grow faint-hearted; but at that time they were more resolute, intending to fight againe, as soone as they had taken away and burnt the dead bodies, not knowing that the Author of all those embroilements was slaine) sends Heralds with letters to the Parthian; certifying him, *That the Emperour was dead, and had received condigne punishment.*

ment for the violation of his oath and league; that himself was now elected to the Empire, by the Romanes (to whom it belonged) and that what was formerly done, did much displease him; that he was therefore willing to restore all the captives that were remaining, and all the spoiles that were caried away; & that he also much desired to make him his friend, & to confirm the Peace by oath and sacrifice.

Which letters *Artabanus* having read, and being fully informed (by the Heralds) of *Antonius* ^{Heralds.} murder; conceiving also, that he was sufficiently plagued for his perfidiousnesse; and satisfying himselfe with the rendition of the captives and spoiles, ^{A sudden league.} (without more effusion of bloud) he concludes a peace with *Maximus*, and returnes home. The Roman Emperor marched likewise with his Armie out of *Mesopotamia*, and went to *Antioch*.



HERODIAN HIS IMPERIALL HISTORIE.

The fourth Booke.

The Contents.

Macrinus his Letter to the Roman Senate and People. The Senate confirme his Election. Informers punished. Macrinus his Errour. Mæla a poluicke Lady. Temple of the Sunne. His Image and Priest. Bassian made Emperer, and called Antonine. Iulian beheaded. Battell betwixt Macrine and Antonine. Macrine flies, and is beheaded. Diadumenianus Cæsar. Antonines Devotion at Nicomedia. Hee sends his Picture to Rome. His Alts at Rome. He dances about the Altars. His Cruelly and Luxury. He writes to the Senate to excuse his ravishing of a Nunne. He marries his God.

God to Minerva, and after divorces them. He marries the Sun and Moone together. Hee inthrones his God in a new Temple. His strange Donatives. Alexander made Cæsar. Wrestling a princely exercise. Stage-players highly preferred. Antonine slaine.



We have treated in the former Booke of the Raigne and End of Antonine, & of the treason wrought against him, and of his Successour. Macrinus remaining at Antioch, sent Letters to the Senate & People of Rome, to this effect.

Macrinus his Letter to the Roman Senate, &c.

For as much as you well know my manner of life from the beginning, how mild my Conversation hath been, and what great moderation I used in my former Office, which is not farre from Sovereignty (seeing the Emperour puts himselfe into the hands of the Pretorian Praefect) I hold it need-
 lesse

Or Generall of his Armies.

lesse to use many words. You may remember how much I was grieved at his Misgovernment, and not a little indangered for your sakes, when he giving care to all Delators, did extremely tyrannize you. Wherefore he still rayled at me, and publiely taxed me for my mildnes and lenity, which he scorned, and termed basenesse and Pusillanimity: For delighting in fawning Synophras, he esteemed them his trustiest Friends and Counsellours, which did whet his cruelty, and spurre his ingenerate ferity, by exasperating Calumnies, whereas I ever highly priz'd modesty and humanity. I have therefore so ended the dreadfull Parthick warre (wherein the whole * Roman Empire was hazarded) as having regard to our honour, wee have not yeilded a jot to the Enemy (in valour) yea we have made that great King (which brought so huge an Host into the Field) of an Enemy a Friend, by ratiffing a firme League. As for my government in the Empire, it shall be so free & unblondy, that you shall rather judge it an Optimacie than a Monarchie. Nor let any daeme mee unworthy so great honour,

* N. B.

or blame Fortune for making me of a Knight an Emperor. For what is Nobility * without Vertue and Civility? ^{* Quid genus? sine} Externall fortunes may befall the unworthiest; but a Mans owne solid Worth is that which begets true Glory. Nobility, Riches, and the like, are reputed to make men happy, yet deserve not much to bee commended being derived from others. But Courtesie and Affability, as of themselves they are lovely, so doe they also give a singular iustre to the most praise-worthy. What good did you reap by Commodus his noblenesse? or Antonine's succeeding his Father? Such as they, attaining the Rule by hereditary right, abuse it at their pleasure (as their private Patrimony) to all licentiousnesse. But they which receive it of your bounty, are eternally obliged to expresse their Gratitude by all good Offices. Moreover, it is often scene, that the native Splendor and Nobility of Emperors doth so puff them up with pride, that they scorne all men as their Vassalls. But they which get the Sovereignty by moderate actions are more carefull to retaine with sobriety what they

they attained with difficulty ; and to give all due honor & respect to others. For my own particular, I have determined to doe nothing without your approvement whom I desire to associat as my Counsellours and Assistants in the mannagement of the State. The liberties and Franchises which you lost by the tyranny of those so nobly descended Emperors, and which Marcus and Pertinax (raised to the Throne from a private estate) indeavored to restore, you shall fully injoy. " For it is more honorable for a man to give the first lustre to his Family by his owne noble Atchievements, than basely to contaminate (by degenerat and debauched behaviour) the Nobility received from his Ancestors.

Macrinus election confirmed by the Senate,

The Senate having read this Letter, gave him all their votes, and decreed to him all Imperial honors. Yet was not the Senate so joyfull at *Macrinus* succession, as all the commons were glad at *Antonines* destruction. For there was

was not a man of any ranke or quality, but thought he had now escaped the sword which hung over his head. And now * Pro- * Sycophāts
 moters, and all servants that had appeacht their masters, were trussed on gallowfes; all the city of *Rome*, & almost all the *Romane* world being well weeded of those wicked wretches, by their death or exile. And if any of them sculked so close, that they were not apprehended, yet was their poison kept in, for that one yeare that *Macrinus* reigned. For it was his maine errour, that he did not presently dissolve the army, (by commanding the souldiers to their severall homes) and repaire to *Rome* immediatly; the people still crying & calling for *Macrinus*. But he (unwisely) staid *Macrinus*
 at *Antioch*, trimming his Beard, his Error.
 and stalking in State with a solemne slow pace, and scarce vouch-

vouchsafing to speak to any that came to him ; or with so low a voice, as (oft) could not be heard. In which garb he imitated *Marcus* the Emperor; not resembling him otherwise in any sort. For he daily gave himselfe to a more delicate course of life, and was more addicted to Stage-playes, Masques, & Revels, than to the Administration of the Empire. When he went in publike, he was deckt with jewels, and a * scarce embroidered with gold and precious stones of inestimable value; which excesse, the Romane army much disliked, holding it fitter for Women & Barbarians, than Princes. Considering therefore his effeminate & unmartiall conditions, they began to disvalue him, & were still paralleling his riotous loosnesse, & *Antonines* military skill & prowesse. They also tooke it very hainously, that they

* Or Baudricke.

they were forced still to live in tents far from home, and many times without provision of necessities, and not permitted to returne into their severall countries, a peace being now concluded, while he fared plentifully, and lived deliciously. Wherefore abandoning all respect to him, they watched every opportunity to make an end of him. Thus did the Fates decree, that *Macrinus* having reigned but one yeare in such delicacy, should lose his life & Empire at once; Fortune ministering to the souldiers a very small and sleight occasion to effect their desires, in this manner:

There was one *Mæsa*, a woman of *Mæsa*.
 * *Phenicia*, borne in the City *E-* * See M.G.
mesa, whose sister *Iulia* was wife Sands Description of
 to *Severus*, and mother to *Anto-* it in his
nine; who in her sisters life-time, Journall,
 had lived many yeares in *Severus* p. 207.
 and *Antonines* Court. This *Mæsa*,
 after

after her sisters decease, and *Antonines* murder, was commanded by *Macrinus*, to take her goods, & remove into her native country. Now she had great store of coine, which she gathered all the while she lived in so flourishing an estate. And being now old, she returned to her old home. She had two daughters, the elder named *Soemis*, the younger *Mamma*, this had a son called *Bassianus*; this, another, called *Alexianus*: both bred up with their mothers & Grandmother. *Bassianus* was upon the point of fourteene yeares, and *Alexianus* often: both Priests of the *Sun*, which is worshipped (as a god, by the Phœnicians, and termed (in their language) *Heliogabalus*: to whom they built a stately Temple, bravely adorned with gold, silver and precious stones. Nor is the *Sun* onely adored by them, but

The Temple of the
Sunne.

but also by the bordering Princes and Kings of the Barbarians, which yeerely strive who shall send him the most costly Donaries. This god hath no Image to represent him, that is made with hands, after the Greeke and Roman fashion; but there is onely a huge great* stone, all round from the bottome, and sharp towards the top, like a * Cone. The stone is of a black colour, & they confidently affirme that it fell from heaven. Some shining spots there are in it, and divers figures. This (they say) is the *Suns* Image, not made by human art. To this god was *Basianus* sacred, as being the elder Son; and therefore did he execute the Priests Office, being vested (after the Barbarian Rites) with gold-embroidered coats, with hanging sleeves reaching downe to the foot. His undergarments, which covered him

all

V. Io Selden
 & παύδε
 Dis Syris.
 Synt. c. I.
 * Or Spue.

The Image
 of the Sun.

Basianus

all over frō his hands to his legs, were likewise cloath of gold tissued upon purple: his head was adorned with a rich crown of precious stones. Hee was a delicate gracefull youth, and of so sweet an aspect, that hee was held the wonder of his time. So that his beauty, age, shape, and costly habit corresponding, he might not unfitly be compared to the dainty Images of *Bacchus*. This brave young priestling as he sacrificed, and caperd about the Altars, to the musick of flutes, pipes and all kind of instruments, was curiously eyed of all, but especially of the Roman Souldiers, either because they knew he was of imperiall linage, or because his attractive beauty drew all their eyes upon him: for at that time a great army was quartered neere to that * City, for defence of *Phenicia*; being soone after lead thence,

* *Emesa*.

thence, as we shal herafter shew.
The souldiers therfore daily repairing to the citie and temple, under colour of devotion, were ravisht with the sight of so rare a creature. Now many of them being *Romane* fugitives, were familiarly acquainted with *Mæsa*: who (when they extold his favour) told them (whether truly or no, is uncertaine) that he was son to *Antonine*, (though he were reputed anothers) who lay with her yong faire daughters in the time of her abode with her sister at the Emperors Court. Which when they heard, and had told their fellows, the bruit of it flew thorow all the army. It was also reported, that *Mæsa* had great store of treasure, and would give it all to the Souldiers, if they would render the Empire to her nephewes. Whereupon they promising to receive her & all hers,
and

and proclaim *Antonines* son Em-
 perer, if she would come secretly
 in the night to the campe, the
 old woman resolved to undergo
 any hazard, rather than live a
 private obscure life. Wherefore,
 issuing privily out of the citie in
 the night with her children and
 nephewes, she was conducted by
 the troupe of fugitives to the ar-
 my; where all the souldiers wel-
 comed her, and proclaiming the
 Boy, *Antonine*, clothed him in a
 purple robe of State. Then fetch-
 ing into the camp all her pro-
 vision, together with her daugh-
 ters, & their husbands, & what-
 soever goods or cattell shee had
 in the fields and villages, they
 victualled & fortified the camp,
 that (if need were) they might
 hold out a siege. Whē this news
 was brought to *Macrinus* lying
 then at *Antioch*, the army there,
 understanding likewise (by re-
 port

Bassianus a
 yong Priest
 proclaimed
 Emperour.

port) that *Antonines* sonne was found out, and that *Iulias* sister had given great store of siluer to the Souldiers, they beleeeved all to be infallibly true, and began to waver, and take new resolutions, being excited therto; both by the grudge they bore *Macrinus*, & commiseration (as it were) of the memory of *Antoninus*, but especially for the hope of cash: insomuch, that many presently fled to this new found *Antonine*.

Macrinus scorning all this, as
 * Boyes-play, and being as ioy-<sup>* ως παιδα-
 ciωτες.</sup> all as ever, stirred not himselfe, but sends one of his Captaines with certaine companies, which he thought sufficient to tame the rebels. As soone as *Iulian* (so the Captaine was called) approched the Campe walls, instantly the souldiers that were within, shewed the Boy to the aduerse army, from the Turrets and Pinnacles,
 pro-

*Julian be-
headed.*

proclaiming him to be *Antonines* son, and holding up their purses full of money (as a bait to betray *Macrinus*.) Whereupon the souldiers without, beleevving he was *Antonines* son, and perswading themselves, he did exceedingly resemble him in face and lineaments, struck off their Captaine *Julians* head, and sent it to *Macrinus*. Which done, the camp gates were opened and all let in. Thus were their numbers increast to a competent Army, not onely to hold out a siege, but also to fight a battell, being augmented also by the accessse of others, that in great troopes revolted to them. Which *Macrinus* understanding, rouzes up his spirits, and leades forth all his Army to assaile the Campe. But *Antonines* Souldiers, not intending to indure a siege, march into the field. Both the armies met on the borders of *Syria* and

& Phœnicia; but *Antonines* fought
 more fiercely, as knowing they
 should be soundly punished if they
 were overcome: on the other side,
Macrinus was more faint & remiss,
 & many of them fled to *Antonine*.
 Which when *Macrinus* saw, fea-
 ring lest all leaving him to the 4
 winds, he should be taken priso-
 ner, and villanously intreated:
 when it grew toward the evening,
 he stript himselfe of his Purple
 *surcoat, and other Imperiall or-
 naments (while his Army yet
 stood firme) and being attended
 with a few of his trustiest Cap-
 taines, betook him to flight: sha-
 ving his beard close (lest he should
 be knowne) and shrowding him-
 selfe in a Riding cloake & hood
 (poasting day and night to pre-
 vent the fame of his misfortune.)
 For his Captaines every where
 took up Coaches, as if *Macrinus*
 still being Emperour, they were
 O sent

The battell
 betwixt
Macrinus &
Basian, or
Antonine. §

* χαλαρῶ-
 σιν.

Macrinus i
 flies.

sent from him about extraordinary affaires. Thus he escaped by flight. Meane while, both armies fought; *Macrinus* his guard (termed the *Pratorian Band*) *bravely maintaining fight against the whole Power of the enemy; for they were the tallest and choicest men that could be found. All the other multitude fought for *Antoine*. But when *Macrinus* his men, after a great while, neither saw him, nor any signe of sovereignty, not knowing whether he were slain, or fled, or what was become of him, they were in a great maze; for they determined to ingage themselves no longer for him that was not to be seen; and yet they feared to come into their enemies hands by yielding to be taken prisoners. When *Antoine* understood by the Renegades, that *Macrinus* was fled; he sends Heralds to certifye the; that it booted not to fight for an

* unmanly fugitive; that he par-
 doned them all that was past, and
 would confirme the pardon by
 oath, & the better to assure them,
 would make them presently his
 Guard. Thus all giving credit to
 the Heralds, yielded. Instantly
Antonine sends to pursue *Macri-*
nus that was now gotten a great
 way on his journey: he was found
 at *Chalcedon*, * a City of *Bithynia*,
 grievously sicke and over-toiled
 with travel, being hid in the sub-
 urbs, where they stricke off his
 head. It was said that hee made
 such haste to *Rome* relying on the
 peoples love, but as hee was pas-
 sing into *Europe* over the *Propontic*
ticke Gulfe (being come neere
 to *Byzantium*) hee was driven
 backe by contrary Gusts, as if
 the Winds themselves had con-
 spired to his punishment. Thus
Macrinus not being able to e-
 scape his pursuers, came to a mi-
 serable

* ἀνάνδρως.

* *Chalcedon*,
 a Sea-City,
 situate in
 view of *By-*
zantium.
Strabo l. 12.
Macrinus
 beheaded.

*Diadume-
nianus Caesar*

scerable end (through his improvidence) determining to goe to *Rome* at last, which he should have done first of all; having neither good fore-sight, nor good fortune: his son *Diadumenianus* (whom he had made *Caesar*) being slaine also with him. When all the army had saluted *Antonine* Emperour, and he was now established in the soveraignty, the orientall affaires being ordered (as was requisite) by his Grandmother and friends (for he was very young and of no experience) he made no long stay there, but prepared for his journey to *Rome*. *Mæsa* longing to returne to the Palace, where shee had so long flourished. When intimation hereof was given to the Roman Peeres and people, it was heavie newes to all. *Antonine* marching out of *Syria*, wintered at *Nicomedia*, (the season so requiring.)

*Antonine
winters at
Nicomedia.*

There

There he fell to his hiddygiddy
 veneration of his country Dei-<sup> iξελαν-
 ty(whose Priest he was)with an-^{νευετο.}
 tique dances ; attired in rich
Sacerdotall vestments of gold,tis-
 sued on Purple ; adorned with
 jewels and armelets:and wearing
 coronets of gold and precious
 stones, made like a Persian dia-
 dem. The fashion of his habite
 was betwixt the long robe of
 the Phœnicians, and the apparrel
 of the Medes. For he scorned the
 Greek & Roman attire, as made
 of wooll, that is (as he termed it)
 of base stuffe; not daining any o-
 ther weare, but *Syrian* silks & go-^{Συρια.}
 ing abroad usually with a noise
 of flutes & shalms, as at his sacri-
 ficing solemnities. Which *Mæsa*
 much disasting, hūbly besought
 him to put himself into the Ro-
 man habit, lest entring the City
 and * *Curia* in that exoticke and
 barbarous garbe he should be an</sup>

* Parlia-
ment house

* *καλλω-
τισματα.*

He sends
his Picture
to *Rome*.

eye-sore to the beholders not used to such gaudy & garish dresses*, which they would judge fitter for women than men. But he rejecting her as an old doting foole, and refusing all good Counsell (for hee would have none about him, but such phantasticks as himselve, which soothed him in his vicious humors) resolved to weare no other fashion, & therefore meant to try a conclusion, how the Roman Senate and people would like it. Whereupon he sent to *Rome* his owne picture (at large) in his superfine Pontificalibus, and withall, the Image of his patriall god, whose Priest he was; commanding them that carried it, to place it on high, in the midst of the *Curia*, over the Image of victory; that when the Senate assembled, all the nobles might burne Incense, & sacrifice wine before it.

Also

Also he made an Edict, that all the Roman Magistrates, and Sacrificers, should, before all other Gods that they remembred at their devotions, pray to the new God *Heliogabalus*. Wherefore when (afterward) he entred *Rome* in the aforesayd Habit, hee was no Novelty to them, having bin used to his Picture. Giving therefore great Donatives to the people (as new Emperors are wont) he exhibited all kinde of stately Shewes; and erected to his God a most gorgeous Temple, wherein were many altars, on which every morning he sacrificed hundreds of Beeves, and great numbers of Sheep. Burning also huge heaps of all manner of redolent Odors on the Altars, he powred out [in Sacrifice] many Rundlets of the daintiest old Wines, so that streams of wine & bloud intermixt, ran over all the Tem-

His Acts at
Rome.

* By these dances, the Gentiles intimated, that every part of their body was to be employed in the service of their Gods.

ple. Then tell hee to * dance about the Altars, to a Consort of all kinde of Instruments, divers of his Country-women capring and skipping with him, as they played on Cymballs and Timbrels; while all the Nobility and order of Knighthood, stood gazing at these Gambolls (as Spectators in a Theater.) Moreover, the entrails of the Sacrifices, and Aromatickes, layd on Golden Plates, were borne not by Servants and meane Persons; but by Generalls of Armies, and the chiefeſt Officers of State, veſted in long Robes with Hanging ſleeves (after the Phœnician faſhion) and ſhod with Linnen ſhooes, like Syrian Prophets. Whom he admitted to theſe Myſteries, he accounted to have highly honored. And though hee ſeemed wholly devoted to Dances and Sacrifices, yet he kept more tragical

gicall Revells; executing many *Antonines* wealthy and noble persons, w^{ch} *crueltie*.
 (as he was informed) tooke small
 pleasure in those things; and now
 and then scoffed him. He tooke *His mari-*
 to wife the most illustrious of all *ages*.
 the Romane Ladies; whom hee
 called *Augusta*, yet soon after di-
 vored her, & stripping her of all
 honors, sequestred her to a pri-
 vate life. After, pretending hee
 was in love, and intending now
 to shew his manhood, he violēt-
 ly tooke out of *Vestaes* sacred
 nunry at *Rome*, a Vestall Virgin
 (who by the Divine Lawes was
 to continue in chastitie and vir-
 ginity to her end) and married
 her. And when he heard that the
 Senate was much aggrieved at
 that sacrilegious act, he sēt them
 a consolatory Letter; certifying
 them, *That it was but a humane fit;*
That he was incanted with the ma-
gicke of her beauty, and that it was

* *Pomp. La-*
tus sayes,
 they might
 marry after
 30 yeares of
 age. *Lib. de*
Sacer. Rom.

Antonines
 Letter to
 the Senate.

** ispelas.* no incongruities, for a Priest to marry a ** Priestesse* : which was therefore a most sacred match. But this wife he kept not long, but cashiering her, took a third, which was said to be of *Commodus* Linage. Nor did he thus play at fast and loose with human matrimonies, but now his God also (whose Priest he was) wanted a wife. He took therefore into his bedchamber the Image of ** Pallas*, which the *Romans* kept in secret veneration, unseene of any ; and till that day had never beene removed since it was brought from *Troy*, but only when the Temple was ** fired* : and so hee married that Goddesse and his God together in his Palace. Soon after, giving out, that his God liked not such a Martiall wife, that was ever in armes ; he commaunded the Image of *Vrania* to be brought : Which having bin exceedingly adored by

He marries
 Gods together.

** Three* cubits high,
 holding a
 Speare in
 the right
 hand, and a
 Spittle in
 the left.

** It cost the*
 High priest
Metellus his
 Eyes, to
 rescue it out
 of the
 flames.

by the *Carthaginians & Africans*, was erected, as they say, by *Queene Dido* (the *Phœnician*) what time she reedified *Carthage*, by cutting an * *Oxhide*. This goddesse the *Africans* cal *Vrania*, the *Phœnicians*, * *Astroarch*, or the *Moone*. *Antonine* said, it would agree bravely, to marry the *Sun & Moone* together. He sent therefore for the Image, & all the treasure and gold in the Temple; giving it to his God, for a Portion with her. When the Image was brought & set neer to *Heliogabalus*, he commanded al the people of *Rome* and *Italy* to use all publique & private feasts and exhilarations for joy of the gods wedding. He erected also in the Suburbs a mighty and magnificent Temple, into which every yeare (about mid summer) he brought his God; recreating the people (as he thought) with Chariot-races,

* *Dido* bought of the *Lybians* so much Ground as an Ox-hide might compass: then cutting it into small thongs, she inclosed 22 furlongs, and there built *Carthage*.
 * *Queene of* *Starres*. *Vid. Selden de Dis Syris.* He married the *Sun* and *Moon*.

races, stage-plaies, feasts & night-
 * Masques. shewes*. Hee brought his God
 out of the citie into the suburbs,
 placed in a Caroach adorned
 with gold and most precious
 stones, & drawn with sixe good-
 ly white steeds, decked with rare
 gold-worke and rich caparisons.
 There was no man in the charer,
 but al attended about it, as if the
 God had driven it. *Antonine* run-
 ning backward with his face to-
 wards the Image, went before
 the charer, leading the horses by
 the reines; going all the way
 back-ward (in that sort) still loo-
 king on the God. Lest he should
 fall or stumble, the way was
 strewed with filings of gold;
 and his guard supported him on
 each side for his more safety;
 the people running along with
 torches, & throwing flowers &
 garlands. This pompous shew
 was honoured with the Images
 of

The in-
 thronizati-
 on of *He-
 liogabalus*.

of all the Gods, and the most sumptuous Donaries that were in the Temples; as also with the Imperiall * jewels & ornaments : * *κεκμήλας*. All the nobility, gentry, and souldiery accompanying it. When hee had shrin'd his God in the Temple, hee solemnized the above mentioned Sacrifices and Festivities. Then he ascended exceeding high turrets purposely made for him: whence he threw (as a largesse) among the people, ^{A strange largesse.} gold and silver plate, and all kind of rich apparell and fine linnen: also all manner of tame beasts, * except swine; which he (as all * This was done by throwing little balles or tickets, which were warrants for receipt of the largesse. the Phoenicians) abhorred. Many there perished, being either trod to death, or thrust thorow with the souldiers pikes: so that it proved a fatall festivall to many. He oft used his charret-sports and wild dances in publick, not caring who saw his unprincely pranks.

pranks. He walked abroad with his eyes painted, and cheeks purpled, disfiguring his faire face with foule tinctures. Which

*His Grand
mother,

**Mæsa* perceiving, mistrusted the souldiers dislike; and fearing if ought came to him, she should be remanded to a privat life, she perswades the vain young fondling to adopt for his son, and declare

*The title
of the heire
apparant,

**Cæsar*, his couzen Germane and her Grand-childe by her other daughter *Mammæa*: speaking him fair, & finely instilling into him, *That it was most meet, that he being dignified with the sacred Title of a Priest, should attend onely on matters of Religion, and the celebration of di-vine Orgies and Offices; and that some other should bee substituted to mannage humane affaires, and be as his Vice-roy, to free him from all cares and encumbrances of State: yet no stranger or alien, but rather his Couzen German to be so honoured by his*
Prince-

princely favour. *Alexianus* was he, then named *Alexander*, his old name being changed into that of the Macedonian kings: for that famous king was much honored by *Antonine* (son to *Severus*) who was both their father, as the old beldam pretended: not sparing to vaunt of both her daughters dishonesty, to make their sons more gracious with the souldiers. *Alex- Alexander* therefore was proclaimed made *Cesar* *Cesar*, and made *Consull* (or *Associat*) with *Antonine*: the Senate ridiculously decreeing what hee commanded; to wit, him to bee the father, that was 16 yeres old, and *Alexander* the son, that was 12 yeaes old. After that *Alexander* was made *Cesar*, *Antonine* as- saied to train him to his courtes, as dancing, revelling, sacrificing, & the like rites, & robes, & ceremonies. But his mother *Māmaa* weaned him from those vain and un-

*Wrestling
a princely
exercise.

Stage-play-
ers prefer-
red.

unseemely exercises, and trained him up in honorable fashion, secretly sending for professors of the Mathematicks, & all liberall sciences, & using him to *Wrestlings and such manly activities: instituting him also in Greek and Roman literature. Whereat *Antonine* much repining, repented that he had adopted him, or made him his colleague in the Empire; and expelled all his tutors from the Court, putting some of the chiefe of them to death, and banishing others: allcading ridiculously, that the pedants spoiled his son, not suffering him to dance and revell, but teaching him to be modest, and use manly exercises. Yea, he was so besotted, that he preferred all sorts of theatricall Actors and Players to the highest honours and most eminent dignities; making Lord Generall of his Armies one that in

in his youth was a publick dancer on the theater He appointed one Stage-player, trainer and guardian * of the young Lords and Gentlemen; another, to be Lord President of his Councel; and a third, generall of the horse. He advanced to the chiefeſt places of truſt in the Empire, charret-drivers, comedians, and hiſtrionickall leſters; beſtowing on his ſervants and * libertines that were moſt extremly debauched, the Procuratorſhips of Provinces. At this mad and drunken diſtribution of ſo many honourable offices, all men murmured, but eſpecially the ſouldiers ſtormed, and ſcorned him, as being more effeminate than an honeſt woman would be; and deteſted him for prostituting the Imperiall Majeſty to contempt, by his capricious dreſſes, golden gewgawes, and publike Revels. They were

* Or maſter
of the
Wards.

* Bondmen
ſet free.

were therefore more inclinable to *Alexander*, conceiving faire hopes of him for his noble and vertuous education; and conser-ving him diligently from the in-fidious practices of *Antonine*. His mother *Mammaa* suffered him not to taste any meate or drinke that he sent. His Cookes and Cup-bearers were not those that waited on the Emperor, but such trusty servants as his mother made choise of. Shee gave him also much money in private, to bestow on the Souldiers secretly; to win them to him with that bait, which she knew would soonest catch them. Which *Antonine* understanding, plotted to destroy him and his mother; but his plots were prevented by their common Grand-mother *Mæsa*; a subtile woman, and a politicke dame; as having lived many yeares in the Imperiall Pa-lace

A Politicke
Lady.

lace, with her sister *Julia*, wife to *Severus*, whereby shee was well read in State affaires. For shee knew all the designes of *Antonine*, who was naturally a blab, and would ordinarily lay himselfe open, and divulge all his intentions. When hee could not surprize him by treachery, hee determined to strip him of his *Cæsarean* dignity; not permitting him to be saluted, or go abroad. Then the souldiers enquired for him, and were much discontented, that hee should be deposed. Whereupon *Antonine* disperses a fame, that *Alexander* was like to die, to try how the Souldiers would take it. They, when they could not see the young Prince, were cut to the heart with the report; and being infinitely enraged, sent not the usuall guards to *Antonine*, but lockt themselves in the Campe; demanding to see
Alexander

Alexander in their Temple. *Antonine* startled at this, takes *Alexander*, and places him with him in his Imperiall Carroach, richly adorned with gold & gems; and hies to the Campe. The souldiers opening the Gates, received them, & conducted them to the Temple of the Campe; exceedingly congratulating and welcoming *Alexander*, but coldly saluting *Antonine*; which hee storming at, after hee had lodged all night in the Campe-Temple; was so incensed at the souldiers for doing such speciall honor to *Alexander*, that he commanded the chiefe and most noted (for it) to be apprehended & executed as Authors of sedition and mutiny. Whereat all the Souldiers being exasperated, and having formerly hated *Antonine*, they resolved to rescue their fellowes, and put away that abominable Prince.

Iudge-

Judging this therefore to bee a
just occasion, and faire oppor-
tunity ; they presently slew *Antonine* <sup>*Antonine*
flaine.</sup>, and his mother *Soemio*,
who was with him (as Empresse)
with all their Privadoes, and In-
struments of lewdnesse that
came with them into the Camp.
Then delivered they to the peo-
ple, the Carcasses of *Antonine* &
Soemio ; w^{ch} being disgracefully
dragged a long time over all the
City, and lastly dismembred,
were throwne into the publicke
jakes, which are voided into
the River * *Tyber*. The Soul-^{* *O'Ceir.*}
diers proclaiming *Alexander*
Emperour, conducted him to
the Royall Palace ; being very
young, and yet in the tuition of
his mother and grand. mother.

The End of the Fifth Booke.

Appendix to *Herodians* fifth Booke of his History.

To the Readers.

HERODIAN having lively drawne (in little) that Monster of Ethnick Priests and Princes, *Pseud-Antonine*, I have thought good to adjoyne (for your further satisfaction) this ensuing *Delineation* of him, extracted out of divers ancient & principal Authors.

*Bathing was as ordinary with Romans, as eating and sleeping. See an Antiquity of a Roman Bath or Stove (lately discovered neere Leicester) related in the Description of that County, by that worthy Patriot, and judicious Antiquary *Wil. Burton* Esquire.

His Apparell was extreame brave and gorgeous: yet hee never wore one Garment twice. His Shooes were embellisht with Diamonds, and Oriental Pearles of the most Caratts. His Seats were strewed with Muske and Amber. His Beds were covered with Cloath of Gold tissued on Purple, and embossed with Gems of inestimable value. His Way was strewed with Filings of Gold and Silver. His Vessells, even of basest Use, were of Obryze Gold. His Lamps burned with precious Balms & Gums of India and Arabia. His Fish-ponds were filled with Rose-water. His Ships in his Theatricall Sea-fights floated in Rivers of Wine. His * Bathes, most magnificently built, when he had once used them, were still pluckt down, and new built. His Plate of refined massive Gold; but never served twice to his Table. His Rings and Jewels infinitely rich, yet never worn twice. His Concubines numberlesse,

leffe, but never laine with twice. Every Sup-
 per in his Court cost 1000 pounds sterling.
 When hee lay neere to the Sea, hee would eat
 no Fish: When he was farthest in the Conti-
 nent, hee would eat no Flesh. Whole Meales
 were furnisht with Tongues of Singing Birds,
 and Braines of rarest Creatures. All Europe,
 Asia, and Africke, with the lands adjacent; * As farre
 in a word, the Globe of Earth and * Sea (wher- as was the
 of he was Lord Paramount) was not able to discovered
 fill this Gulph. In his Progressse, he was at- to the Ro-
 tended by 600 Charriots fraught with Concu- manes.
 bines, Catamites, and Pandars: for whom he
 built a Seraglio in his Court; where himselfe
 (in the habit of a Curtezan) used to make so-
 lemn speeches to them, terming them his brave
 Fellow-Souldiers and Companions in Armes:
 [What gallant Instructions he gave them, I
 forbear to mention.] He caused to be gather-
 ed in Rome * ten thousand weight of Spi- * Vid. Lips.
 ders, ten thousand Mice, and a thousand Pol- de magnit.
 cars, which he exhibited to the Roman Peeres Romana.
 and people, in a publicke Shew and Solemnity:
 professing, that now he perfectly understood
 how mighty a City Rome was. Lastly [to
 omit other more strange pranks] he sum-
 moned a * Parliament of Women, to consult a * Senatum
 bout Tires, Fashions, Dresses, Tinctures, and
 the like weighry and important Affaires.

FINIS.



HERODIAN HIS IMPERIALL HISTORIE.

The sixth Booke.

The Contents.

Alexander Emperour. The Religion and State reformed. Maxia Deified. Alexanders Elogie. His Marriage. Persians invade the Romanes. Alexander writes to the Persian; who scornes his Letters. Generall Muster in Italy. Alexander marches against the Persian. An Embassy. Another braving Embassy. Embassadors punished. Alexanders Policie. Archery. Armenian Mountains. The Romans defeated. Alexander retires. Best Physicke for Souldiers. Germany rebells. Alexander comes to the Rhine. Archers. Heralds. Maximine described and elected Emperour. Alexander slaine. Wee



Ee have formerly declared in what manner *Alexander* *An-* *Emperour.*
tonine (the elder brother) ended his dayes. After him *Alexander* had the title and ornaments of Emperour; but the management of affaires, and regencie of the Empire rested in *Mæsa* and *Mæsa* and *Mammaea*; who labored to reduce all things to better *Mammaea* *Regens.*
 order and moderation,

And first they selected out of the Senate 16. ancient, grave, and honourable Peeres, for assistants and counsellors to the Prince: without whose suffrage & consent, nothing was to passe as an act of State. Which manner of government was wondrous pleasing to the People, Souldiers and Senators; the Empire being thereby reduced from an injurious *Tyrannie*, to the forme of an * *Optimacie.*

Their prime care was to re-
 P store

A. cr-
ment of the
principall
men.

Religion
first reformed.

Next, the
State.

N. B.

* ἐν εὐτακ-

τοῖς τε καὶ

πολεμικαῖς

ᾠδαῖς ἔστη.

In w^h words the

excellent au-

thor hath

touch'd both

the parts of

war: viz

Tactick and

Stratagemat-

ick.

Mesa dies,

& is deified

* As a Wo-

mans deifi-

cation, they

used a pea-

cocke (into

which they

supposed her

soul to sit:)

as an Eagle

at a M^{ns}.

See this su-

store the Images of the Gods
(removed and displaced By *An-*
tonine) to their owne ancient
Temples and Oratories. Next,
all that hee had advanced to ho-
nors and offices, either without
desert, or for their lewd pranks,
they discharged and degraded;
commanding every of them to
follow their former trades and
professions. All civill and judici-
ary offices they bestowed on fa-
mous learned men and excellent
Lawyers: and all places of mar-
tiall command they gave to
brave noble Captaines, & Soul-
diers, expert in * Marshalling of
Armies, and Military Exploits.
The Empire being thus admi-
nistrated a long time, *Mesa* being
now very old, deceased; and was
buried like an empress; being af-
ter the Roman fashion, * deified.
Mamma being now sole Re-
gent and Guardian of her Son,
fol.

followed still the same tracke of ^{preme solemn-}
 government. When he came to ^{nity descri-}
 his age, to manage the state him- ^{bed in the}
 selfe, shee fearing lest his unstaide ^{beginning of}
 youth might in that height of li- ^{the 4 book of}
 berty & sovereignty, precipitate ^{this Histor.}
 him into the vices and vanities
 incident thereto ; set a strong
 Watch about the Court, prohi-
 biting al lewd and loose persons
 from his presence, lest his good
 nature should be corrupted, and
 his minde provoked to lust by
 bewitching Syrens, and fawning
 Parasites. She perswaded him al-
 so to attend matters of Iudica-
 ture * the best part of the day ; * *Δικάζειν*
 to keepe him from Idlenesse, the
 Mistris of all lewdnesse. *Alexan-*
der (indeed) was naturally ador-
 ned with Affability, Clemencie,
 and other Princely graces (as was
 afterwards apparant in the course
 of his life.) For in 14 yeares, his
 Empire was not stayned with *Alexanders*
 P 2 bloud *Elogie.*

bloud: not one being put to death
(by him) all the while. And
though divers were convict of
haynous crimes, yet hee spared
their lives: which you shal hard-
ly finde to have bin done by any
Emperor since *Marcus*. None can
remember that in all the time of
his Raigne, there was any execu-
ted without Iudiciall Procede.
He much blamed his Morher, &
was very angry with her, for her
greedy covetousnesse of money,
and accumulating of riches. For
Mamma pretending to hoord up
Coin, to supply *Alexanders* boun-
ty to the Souldiers, got a great
Masse of Treasure to her selfe.
Which, although it were much
disliked in her, and condemned
by the Emperour; yet did her
fraudulent practices in spoyling
many of their goods and estates,
reflect on him, to his obloquy &
dishonour. She gave him a wife
of

of a noble Family; whom hee
dearely loved: but she soon after
banisht her the Court. For, arro-
gating to her selfe alone the title
of Empresse; and maligning her
Daughter-in-lawes honour, shee
proceeded to that outrage, that
the young Empresses Father,
though in great esteeme with *Alexander* (his son in law) not able
to indure the many wrongs shee
did him and his Daughter, fled
into the Camp: professing he was
much obliged to the Emperour
for doing him that honour, but
accusing *Mammæa* for her oppro-
brious injuries. Whereat, she be-
ing the more exasperated, com-
manded him to be slain; and ha-
ving expelled the young Lady
from the Court, confined her to
Africke. All w^{ch} was done with-
out *Alexanders* consent, & meere-
ly against his will: for his Mo-
ther caried a high and imperious

hand over him, and he tenderly reuer'd and obeyed her in all things: so that his main error was too much softnesse, & over great obsequiousnes to his mother, in things w^{ch} himself disapproved.

Having thus ruled the Empire thirteene yeares, without any grievance (in regard of his owne particular) suddenly in the fourteenth yeare, there came letters from the Presidents of Syria and Mesopotamia, certifying; *That Artaxerxes King of Persia having conquered the Parthians, and slaine Artabanus (who was the first that was called, The great King, and wore a double Diadem) did likewise subdue and make Tributary the bordering Barbarians: and not containing himselfe within the River Tigris, had transpassed the banks and bounds of the Roman Empire, and made a roade into Mesopotamia, threatening to invade Syria, and challen-*

The Parthian king slaine.

A double diadem.

The Persians invade the Romans

challenging the * opposite continent * The lesser
to Europe (limited by the *Ægean Asia*.

Sea, and Propontick Gulfe, and called Asia) as the ancient Patrimony of the Persians: in that, from Cyrus (who first translated the Empire of the Medes to the Persians) until Darius the last Persian King (deposed by Alexander) all those Countries, as far as Ionia and Caria, were ruled by Persian Vice-royes: and therefore, he held himselfe bound in honor to recover all that w^{ch} was anciently under the Persian Scepter. When Alexander received this d. small newes from the Eastern parts, he was not a little perplext and troubled, having beene ever trained (from a child) in peace and tranquility, and nuzled in City-delights: advising therefore with his Councel, he first resolved to send Embassadours with letters to stop the Barbarians proceedings. The letters were to this effect:

Alexanders
Letters to
the Persian.

The persi-
an scornes
them.

feEt: That he ought to containe him-
selfe within his bounds : and not in
vaine hope of new Conquests , raise
wars and stirs. That every one ought
to rest content with his owne estate.
That he would find great difference
in fight betwixt Romans and his fel-
low Barbarians. Lastly, he put him in
mind of the victories which Augu-
stus, Trajan, Lucius & Severus had
obtained against them. With these
letters Alexander perswaded him-
selfe he should over-rule the Bar-
barian and make him quiet. But
he scorning them, and holding it
his best course to fight rather than
talk, was now more rampāt than
ever: ranging over all Mesopotamia,
taking great booties, and assailing
the Romā camps that were pitched
on the river banks, to defend the
limits of the Empire. Being also
naturally of a high spirit and
haughty minde, which by this
sudden successe was much more
ele-

elevated, hee thought he should conquer all afore him. Hee had great encouragements to enlarge his Dominions, being the first that attempted the Parthians, and recovered the kingdome to the Persians: for after *Darius*, whom *Alexander* the Macedon conquered, the Macedonians and *Alexanders* successors for many yeres divided among them the principality of the orientall Provinces over all *Asia*. But when by their civill wars and discords, the Macedonians & the rest were weakened, *Arfaces* the Parthian did (as they say) first perswade the barbarous people of these countries to revolt from the Macedonians: and being crowned King by the Parthians and adjoyning Barbarians, he held the kingdome: and left it to his posterity, which enjoyed it untill the raign of *Artabanus* (in our time) slaine by *Ar-*

A generall
Notice.

taxexes, who reunited that kingdom to the Persian Monarchy, and having brought in subjection the adjacent Barbarians began to trench on the Roman territories. Which *Alexander* understanding, and knowing it concerned him in a high degree of justice & honor, not to suffer the insolent Barbarian any longer, (his commanders earnestly importuning him to come in person) with much ado, at last he prepares to set forward (against his owne inclination:) and now there were General musters through all *Italy*, and the Romane Provinces, of the strongest and ablest persons for the wars; great hurliburlies being in all parts of the Empire, about training the choicest that might bee found, to encounter the barbarous multitude. *Alexander* assembling into the field all the Souldiers which were quartered

tered neere the City, spake thus
to them from his Throne :

Alexanders Speech to the
Army.

I Could wish (my brave Fellow-soul-
diers) that I might as heretofore
speak such things to you, as were to my
applause, and your content. It may be
that after so long peace, an unexpected
war may somewhat dismay you. " But
" it is the part of generous and tempe-
" rate men to pray for the best ; and be
" content with that which happens ; for
" as those things which wee performe
" with pleasure, are delightful : so va-
" liant Exploits necessarily underta-
" ken, are most glorious : And as hee
" that first offers wrong deserves small
" favour ; so he that redresses a wrong
" is more confident , as having a good
" conscience ; and more couragious, in
" that hee offers not wrong but repells
it. Artaxerxes the Persian, having
traiterously slaine his Sovereign Ar-
tabanus, and translated his Kingdome
to the Persians, hath presumed also to
bid us Battaille, and in despite of the
Romans.

Roman majesty, hath begun to invade and destroy our Provinces. At first, I thought good to write to him, to desist from that insatiate fury of coveting other mens Estates: But he in his barbarous pride is so far from containing himselfe in his owne Limits, that hee challenges us to fight. Let us not therefore refuse the Challenge, nor fore-slow the Warre; but you, which are Veterans, make him know, that you are they that under the conduct of Severus and my Father Antonine, got those famous Victories over the Barbarians. And you which are young Souldiers, must strive for honour and glory, that all may know, you are not onely well disciplin'd to obey in time of peace, but that also in time of warre when need requires, you are able to make full demonstration of your Valour. The Barbarians are very fierce against them that shrink, or come on slowly: but if they be furiously charged, they are soon calmed. For it is not their manner to attempt the Victory by pitcht Battels: but to make sudden predatory Excursions, and then runne away; thinking they have gayned sufficiently by foraging

ging the countrey. But we, with our fair
and wel-ordred armies, have put them
to the worst, & returned conquerors.

Alexander having thus said, the
souldiers by their generall cry
expressed their alacrity and readi-
nesse to march: wherfore giving
them large pay, hee commands
them to prepare for the voyage,
& having made another speech
(of like effect) to the Senate, he
appoints a day for his departure:
which being come, and the usual
sacrifices & ceremonies perfor-
med, (all the Senate and City at-
tending him) hee departs from
Rome, oftē looking back towards
the City, and weeping. Neither
was there any of the people wh^{ch}
parted from him with drie eies:
so dearely were they devoted to
him, being bred amongst them,
& having raigned so many years
with such rare moderatiō. With
speedy journies hee visited
the

*Alexander
beloved of
all.*

He marches
to Antioch.

An Embas-
sie.

the *Illyrian* Nations and armies
and taking great forces from
thence with him, he marched to
Antioch, where he made diligent
preparation for al warlike neces-
saries, still attending the training
of Souldiers and other Martiall
exercises. Here again (hoping to
end the war by Treatie) hee sent
another Embassie to the Persian
king, to conclude a peace, & con-
tract a league with him. For be-
ing come so far in person, he was
in hope either to perswade him,
or at least to terrifie him. But the
Barbarian prince proudly rejects
the *Roman* Embassadors, & sends
400 of his tallest Persians in
brave & rich attire as Heralds or
embassadors, mounted on good-
ly coursers, with their gay bowes
and arrowes, thinking the Ro-
mans would be danted with the
sight and habit of the Persians.
His embassage was this, *The great*
King

King Artaxerxes commands the
 Romans and their Prince, to depart
 out of all Syria, and Asia^{* that is op-}
 posite to Europe; to permit the Persi-
 ans to rule as far as Ionia & Caria,
 & over all those countries which are
 divided by the Aegean and Pontick
 sea, and by patrimoniall right belong
 to the Persians. These 400 Em-
 bassadors Alexander commanded
 to bee apprehended, & stripping
 them of their Persian gallantry,
 banisht them into Phrygia, assign-
 ing them certaine villages for
 dwelling, and fields for tillage:
 contenting himselfe to punish
 them by debarring their returne
 into their native countrie; it be-
 ing (as he thought) an^{*} unholy^{* α'υοτογ.}
 deed, & unmanly act to put them
 to death that fought not, but on-
 ly executed their Soveraignes
 command. This done, Alexander
 being about to passe over the ri-
 vers, and lead his Army into the
 Bar-

A braving
Embassie.

* Asia mi-
nor.

Embassa-
dors pu-
nisht.

Alexanders
policie.

Barbarians countrey, many Ægyptian souldiers revolted from him; and others began to make a commotion in *Syria*: but they were soone suppressed and punished. *Alexander* also sent some Forces into other countries, to prevent the Barbarians incursions. All which things being set in order, and having now a great armie, not inferior to the enemy, he divided it (by his counsels advice) into three Battalions, commanding one to march Northward through *Armenia* (which seem'd to be in friendly termes with the Romans) and that way to invade the Borders of *Media*; another likewise, to passe by the North through the Barbarian countries, where *Tigris* and *Euphrates* meet, & are drowned in great Marishes and lakes; whence it is unknown how they are dis-emboged; the third, being the best part of the
army

army, himself undertook to lead against the Barbarians, & assaile them in the midst. By this means he thought to take thē unprovided, invading thē several wayes, and that the Persian forces would be much distracted & weakned, and so lesse able to resist the Romanes by being dispersed to encounter them in places so far dis-terminated. For the Barbarians have no mercenary bands(as the Romans use)nor any set Camps or veterane Armies that are still exercised in Martiall discipline: but all their men (and women too sometimes)are mustered together at the Kings command: and after the war, return to their houses, taking (for their pay) all the booties they get. They use shooting and riding, not one-ly(as the Romans)in war, but(e-ven frō their childhood) in hun-ting for their food: using their
bowes

Archerie.

The Ar-
menian
mountains.

bows perpetually on horseback, whether they follow the wars, or pursue wild beastes. This plot of *Alexander*, though it were plausible, proved not fortunat: for the army that marcht thorow *Armenia*, having with great difficulty climbed over the extreme steep and craggy Mountaines of that Region (which they did the better, in regard it was Summer) entered *Media*, where they burnt many Villages, & got much pillage, Which the Persian King understanding, hastened against them with al his power. But they could not impeach the Romans, by reason of the hillinesse and roughnesse of the cuntry, which was more firm and passable for footmen: but a maine hindrance to the Barbarian horse. Then came other news to the king that another Army of the Romans had entred the Parthian dominions

East-
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Eastward, and wasted the Country. Fearing therefore, lest having soone conquered the Parthians, they should invade Persia, he left as many troopes as (he thought) were sufficient to defend *Media*, and posts with a puissant host to the East parts. The Roman Army when they saw none come against them, began to bee more negligent in their march; supposing that *Alexander* had with the third part of the Army (which was the strongest) invaded the Barbarians in the middle. Resting therefore & reposing themselves, they supposed there needed no hast; as not doubting, but that all the Army did come on, according to the first determination; to which purpose a place was assigned as a rendezvous for themselves, the prey & prisoners which they should take. But *Alexander* disappointed them: for he

The Romans de-
feated.

he neither went himself, nor sent the Army: whether for feare of losing his life in defending the Empire, or whether his mother out of a feminine feare and fondnes detained him, is uncertaine. Vndoubtedly shee did much abate his noble courage, perswading him rather to expose others to danger, than himselfe to the fortune of war. By which means, the Roman army that had entred the Barbarians Countrey, was meerely betrayed. For the Persian king leading all his forces against them ere they were aware, and taking them as it were in a net, gave thẽ an absolute defeat: for being few, they could not withstand so many: but guarding as well as they could the open parts of their bodies (with their Armes) against the shot of the arrowes, they supposed they acquitted themselves well, if making

king no resistance, they escaped safe. But having for some space defended themselves by joyning their targets together, as with a wall, & being like a city assaulted on every side, & grievously wounded, at last, after a long and brave resistance, they were every man slaine. The losse of which great Army (which might well bee compared to any of the Ancient, for valour or fidelity) was a mighty and unspeakable calamity to the Romans. But the Persian puffed up with so good successe, bare his Crest aloft, and aspir'd to higher matters. Which when *Alexander* heard, being then very sick (either for grieve of mind, or unwholsomenesse of the aire) he tooke it exceeding heavilie: and all the Army was grievously offended with the Emperour: in that by disappointing his men, he had so foully betrayed the. But
Alex.

Alexander not able to endure his sickness, nor that hot climate which afflicted all the army, and especially the Illyrians (who having been used to a cold and moist ayre, fed more plentifully than the rest) purposed to dis-
 march to *Antioch*: and send for these few souldiers that remained of those that perished (amongst the Mountain) by extremity of the Winter season. The companies that *Alexander* had with him, he brought back to *Antioch*: having lost many of them also: to his infinit dishonour, & his souldiers discontentment: Fortune failing him every where. For the most part of his threefold army (for so he divided it) perished diversly, either by sickness, sword, or cold.

Alexander
 retires to
Antioch.

Alexander being come to *Antioch*, and having soon recovered his health by the change of ayre
 (Mesopo-

(*Mesopotamia* being extreme hot,
but *Antioch* much cooler, & well
watered with dainry fountains) he
refreshed his army & reviv'd their
drooping spirits with great store
of Coine (for that he held to be
the onely preservative to assure
the souldiers love.) Here he rai-
sed new Forces, as if he meant to
leade another Army against the
Persians, if they were further
troublesom, & desisted not from
their enterprises. But he received
intelligence, that the Persian king
had dismiss all his Souldiers to
their owne homes. And though
the Barbarians seemed to have
got the upper hand, yet were they
exceedingly wasted wth those fre-
quent skirmishes & battels in *Me-
dia* & *Persia*. & they w^{ch} surviv'd
were (for the most part) grievous-
ly wounded and much weakned.
For the Romans which sel, sold
their lives full dearely, and flew
not

*Pilula an-
ree*, the best
physicke for
Souldiers.

not a few of their Enemies, tho they were but a handful in comparison of them: insomuch that there were almost as many slain of the Barbarians as of the Romans, who were not inferior to them in valour, but number. And this was a certaine signe of the Barbarians great losse, that they took not armes, nor offered to stir for 3 or 4 yeares after.

Alexander thus advertised, during his abode at *Antioch*, and being disburdened of the irksome care of War, he was much more free and frolicke, and gave himselfe to the City-pastimes and plesures. And now while he was confident that the *Persians* would bee quiet, or at least, that they would not (in hast) re-assemble their Forces, which are rather a confused multitude, then a well-ordered Army (for they have no other provision, thē what every man

man brings from home for present use; and are also very loath to leave their wives, children & possessions) there came posts with letters from the Procurators of Illyria, w^{ch} troubled Alexander & perplext him more thē ever: for they certified him, *That the Germanes having past the Rbine, and I-*
sther, had invaded the Roman Fron-
tiers, assaulted the Armies upon the
Banks, & made great havock in the
Cities and Villages: to the great ha-
zard of the Illyrian Regions adjacēt,
and abutting on Italy: that his Pre-
sence therefore was mainly necessa-
ry, together with the whole Army.

The Ger-
manes re-
bell.

This newes amazed Alexander, and grieved the Illyrians, being twice miserable; by their late discomfiture in the Persian expedition, and the slaughter of their counteymen by the German incursions. They were therefore exceedingly enraged at th

Q

perour

peror for betraying the affaires of the East by his feare or negligence, & for delaying to succour the North, being so earnestly called upon. And now *Alexander* and his Counsell began to misdoubt *Italy*: which was in greater danger of the *Germanes* then the *Persians*. For the remote Nations of the Levant, so far disjoyned by Sea and Land, scarce heare of the name of *Italy*: but the *Illyrian* Dominions being of small extent, and consisting but of a few Provinces, are the only bar betwixt *Italy* and *Germany*. Being compelled therefore by necessity, hee much against his will proclaimes his Expedition: and leaving as many Companies as he thought sufficient to guard the Roman frontiers (having well manned & fortified the Camps, Sconces, & other præsidary places) hee hastens with the rest of
the

the Army against the Germans. Having ended his Journey with *Alexander* great speed, he incamped on the banks of the *Rhine*, and there made provision for the German War. He made a bridge of ships and barges for the more easie passage of his Army over the river: *Rhenus* and *Isther* being the greatest rivers of the North: the one running through *Germany*, the other through *Pannonie*. In summer they are navigable, by reason of their deep & broad channels: but in winter they are so frozen, that they are ridden over, as if they were *Plaines*: the Ice being so firm and thick, that it bears not only horse and man, but they also which want water, bring not with them Pitchers or other vessels, but axes and hatchets, wherewith they hew out water, and carry it thence like stones. *Alexander* had in his Ar-

Moorees generally
nimble-
footed.
Archers.

Embassad-
ors.

my divers Regiments of Moors, and a goodly band of Archers, which hee brought out of the East; some from the Osroenes Country; others, that were Parthian Fugitives, or Sripendaries, which he sent against the Germans, who were much infested by them: for the Moors cast their darts at a great distance, and are very deft and nimble in running to and fro: and the archers standing as farre off, easily hit the naked heads and vast bodies of the Germanes; being faire marks to shoot at. Sometimes also they came to hand-strokes; wherein the *Germans* were (oft) not inferior to the Romans. While these things were on foot, *Alexander* sent embassadours to them to treat of peace, and to assure them that they should want nothing that they needed, & that they should be well furnisht with mony. For
the

the Germans are soonest perswaded with that, being very greedy of ~~Chelt~~, and ever ready to chaffer peace with the Romanes for gold. *Alexander* therefore assayed rather to buy a league, than to hazard himself in the war. But his Souldiers were much discontented, that they spent their time vainly, and were not led to some brave Service or gallant Enterprize. *Alexander* (as they said) caring more to follow his Charretting and Revelling, than to pursue or punish the presumptuous Germanes (as concerned him.) Now there was in the army one *Maximine*, borne in an obscure *Maximée* Village of the innermost part of ^{described} *Thrace*, a Semi barbarian; and which in his younger age had beene bred a Shepherd; after, being at mans estate, hee was for his bulk and strength appointed to serve in the warres among a

Q 3 troop

troope of horse; soone after, Fortune leading him by the hand, he passed through all Military preferments, to the command of Armies and Provinces. Thus *Maximine*, was for his singular skil in the exercise of arms, made Captain by *Alexander*, over all the yong souldiers; to the end to traine and make them fit for Service. Who performing his taske with care and diligence was very gracious with all the army. For he did not only teach them what they should doe, but himselfe did by his owne example, daily instruct them: where-
 by they became not onely his Schollers, but also *zealous imitators of his valour, being obliged to him by Donatures, and all manner of honors. These young Souldiers (whereof many were Pannonians) applauded *Maximine* for his prowesse; but scor-
 ned

ἡγεμονίας.

ned *Alexander*, as being still Ward to his mother, & wholly subject to the authoritie and will of a woman, which made him so slowly and unmanly to prosecute the warres: whereby the orientall expedition miscarried: and nothing (in effect) was done against the Germans. And now being naturally prone to Innovation, and wearied with the long raigne of the Prince, which was but little beneficiall to them (there being no competitors for the Empire) hoping also that if some other were made Emperour (beyond his expectation) it would be more for their profit and preferment, they resolved to kill *Alexander* and elect *Maximine* Emperour, who was their comrado and fellow in Armes, and for his Martiall skill and valour fittest for the present warre. Assembling therefore into the

*Maximine
elected Em
perour.*

field in Armes, when *Maximine* came (as his manner was) to train them, they invest him with Purple, and salute him Emperour, which whether it were so plotted, or hee were ignorant of their intentions, it is uncertaine. At first he refused and threw away the Purple. But when the Souldiers brandisht their Cymiters, threatning to kill him if he yielded not, he chose rather to avoid the present then future perill; and accepted the Honour; which (hee said) had beene oft foretold him by Oracles and dreames: protesting withal to the Souldiers, that it was much against his will, yet he would submit to their importunity: & seeing they would needs have it so, he wisht them instantly to take armes, & before the rumor were blazed, to surprize *Alexander* that knew nothing of it, that his souldiers

diers and guard being astonisht with the newes, might either be drawne to their party, or being taken unprovided, compelled to yield. Then cheering all the Army, with promising them a double portion of Corne, extraordinary Donatives, and remission of all punishments and penalties, he leads the straight towards *Alexanders* Pavillion, not far thence; who, when hee heard of it, was mightily amazed, & leapt forth of his royal tent like a mad man; weeping and trembling, and accusing *Maximine* as perfidious and ungratefull for all the honours he had done him; and the yong souldiers as perjur'd & disloyall for conspiring with him. Lastly, he promised to give what they would have, and amend whatsoever was amisse.

The Souldiers that were with him, comforting him for the present

sent, said they would stand for him to the uttermost. When the night was past, and it was now day, newes comming that *Maximian* was at hand, that a great dust was seene, and a huge multitude heard not far off, *Alexander* went again into the Plaine, & assembling the souldiers, besought them to protect and defend him that was bred up by them, & had reigned 14 yeares without harming any: whereat, all commiserating him, he commanded them to take armes & charge the enemy. But the Souldiers, though they gave him good words, yet slipt away one after another, and would not fight. Some wisht the Prætorian Præfect and *Alexanders* Courtiers might bee executed, imputing the mutiny to the. Others laid all the blame on his mother, which by her insatiable avarice and base niggardice (in
scanting

scanting the souldiers) had made *Alexander* odious. Thus for some while they parlied and argued, but marched not. When *Maximines* army came in sight, & began to perswade them to leave that wretched woman, and puny Prince, that was still under his mothers wing; and adhere to a valiant Souldier and brave commander, that was their own companion in armes, and an excellent Master in the Art Military, they all presently revolted from *Alexander*, and with one voice proclaimed *Maximine* Emperour. *Alexander* in great feare and distraction returns to his Pavillion, where hanging on his mother & (as they say) bemoaning his infortunity, which happened by her meanes; he expected his deathsmen. *Maximine* being saluted *Augustus* by all the army, commanded the Knight Marshalls and

Extreme calamities confound the spirit.

O, Tribune

some

*Alexander
slaine.*

* ἀμεμῆτος
καὶ ἀναιμῶς

some Centurions, to put *Alexander* and his mother to death, and all that resisted. Whereupon they rusht into his Tent and slew him with his Mother, friends, and counsellors: except them that a little before escaped by flight or concealment: which yet soon after were all apprehended and slaughtered by *Maximine*. This end had *Alexander* and his Mother, having raigned 14 yeares without * blame or bloud. For he abhorred murther and cruelty, and was so mild and temperate, that he suffered none to dy, but those that were condemned by Law: and had not his miserable Mother blasted his Honour by her sordid demeanour, there had beene nothing wanting to have rendred him a most excellent Prince.

The End of the Sixth Booke.



HERODIAN
HIS IMPERIALL
HISTORIE.

The seventh Booke.

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WE have shewed in the former Book, how *Alexander* demeaned himselfe in his 14 yeares raigne, and how he died. *Maximine* having attained the Soveraignty, there followed a strange alteration. For he carried himself in such rough & terrible sort, that the Empire was now fallen frō a faire calme rule, to a stormy blustering Tyranny. Knowing now he should be generally prejudged, because he was the first that was raised frō the lowest step, to the highest State; and being also a Barbarous caitive and villaine of birth,
and

and by education, custome, and condition, given to bloud; his chiefe care was to settle himself in the Empire by crueltie: supposing hee should bee (otherwise) contemptible to the Roman Senat and subjects, who would not so much consider his present fortune, as the basenes of his parentage: for all men knew that (first) he was a Shepherd in the Mountaines of *Thrace*: and that after, being (for his vastnesse & activity) prest for a soldier among his poore countreimen, he was led by the hand (as it were) of Fortune, to the Roman Empire: wherefore he instantly* discom- * ἀπεσχευ-
posed all *Alexanders* counsellors ^{δασατο.} & assistants that were chosen by the Senat; sending some of them to *Rome*; and depriving others of their offices, upon pretence of misgovernment. Which he purposely did, that being rid of all
which

which were his betters (in birth) he might the more freely & uncontrollably practise (in his Army, as in a strōg Arcenal) al kind of Tyranny, without regard to any. Hee banisht also from the court, al *Alexanders* servants, that had so many yeares waited, and put many of them to death upon misprision of Treason, because they mourned for their, old master. But that which set a keene edge upon his Tyranny, was an information, that many Captaines and all the Roman Senate conspired against him.

Magnus.

There was one *Magnus*, a very noble Gentleman, that had been Consul; who was accused to the Emperor that he raised a faction against him, and dealt with the Souldiers to make him selfe Emperor. The Plot was said to be this: *Maximin* had built a bridge over the River to go against the

Ger.

Germans; for as soon as he came to the Sovereignty, he presently applyed himselfe to the warres. For being elected to the Empire for his huge bulke, approved valour, & skill in military affaires, he intended by deeds of Armes to confirme the Soldiers in their good opinion, and to make the world know, that *Alexanders* feare, & *retardation of the war, * μὴ λησιν. was justly to bee condemned. Wherefore he spared no pains to muster and traine the Souldiers, and being still in armes himselfe, he mightily encouraged the Army. Having made the bridge, he purposed to passe into *Germany*. But *Magnus* was reported to have perswaded many of the best soldiers (who had the charge of guarding the bridge) that as soon as *Maximine* were passed over, they should cut it down; and so (preventing his returne) betray him

him to the Barbarians. For so deep & broad was the river, that it was impossible hee should retreat (there being no ships on the other side.)

This was the rumor, but whether true, or feigned by *Maximin*, is uncertain; for it is hard to determine any thing therein; all that were suspected, being suddenly apprehended, and cruelly slain, without Iudiciall Proceffe or Pleading. But now the Osroene Archers began to revolt. For being much griev'd at *Alexanders* murther, & meeting (by chance) with *Quartinus* one of *Alexanders* friends (dismiss'd but a little before by *Maximine*) they layd hold on him, and utterly against his will made him their Chiefe, and honouring him with the fatall Ornaments of Purple, and Fire carried before him, they proclaimed him Emperor, that neither knew
of

Quartinus

of it before, nor thought of it :
howbeit, soone after sleeping in
his Tent, he was suddenly slain
by one that had beene his com-
panion, and (as some say) his af-
fied friend: whose name was *Ma- Macedon.*
cedon, the Captain of the *Osro-*
ens, and the first mover of their
revolt frō *Maximin*. And though
hee had no cause nor quarrell at
all against him; yet he slew him,
whom himself had compelled to
take upō him the Empire. Then,
thinking he should be wondrous
welcom to *Maximine*, he brought
him *Quartinus* head for a Pre-
sent. *Maximine* being glad to see
it, and rejoycing that his enemy
was so easily made away; wher-
as the Actour expected great
thanks and preferment; hee put
him to a most cruell death; as a
Ringleader of Rebellion, a mur-
therer of him that hee had per-
swaded (against his will) to that
enterpize;

enterprize; and a Traitor to his dearest friend. These & the like occasions whetted *Maximine* to all immanity, that (of himselfe) was exceeding bloudy. He had a horrible ugly countenance, and such a Cyclopicall Bulk, that no Greek nor Barbarian Champion was comparable to him. Having thus ordered his affaires, he leads all his army with great courage over the Bridge, and makes war upon the Germans. A wondrous multitude of people followed him; almost all the Roman forces, the Moresco darters, and many Bands of Archers of the Osroens and Armenians: (whereof, the first are Vassalls to the Romans; the latter their Allies and Confederates) as also the mercenary and fugitive Parthians, and the Captives of that nation that served the Romanes in the war. Which confused Masse, having

having been first raked together by *Alexander*, was after augmented & well trained by *Maximine*. These Darters and Archers are very serviceable against the Germans, because they nimblely fall forth upon the enemy (ere they are aware) and easily retreat *into the Grosse of the army*. *Maximin* being entred the enemies country, & finding none to resist him (for all the Barbarians were fled) spoiled all the country, (the corn being now ready to reape) leaving all the villages to be burnt & pillaged by the souldiers. Their cities & buildings are very apt to take fire, for the Germans rarely use to build with stone or brick, their houses being like sheds made of bords & timber fastned together. *Maximin* progressing in this sort, burning all the fields, & giving al the cattell to the Souldiers, could yet find no enemies.

For

Woods &
Bogs.

The Ger-
mans good
swimmers.

For they had left all the Cham-
paigne and plaine Country, and
betaken themselves to the woods
and bogs, where they skulked &
watched their advantage to make
an irruption upon the enemy: as
knowing that the trees w^{ch} grew
so thicke would hinder the ene-
mies Darts & Arrowes; and the
depth of the bogs would be dan-
gerous for the *Romans* that knew
thē not: but easie & accessible to
them that wel knew where they
were passable, running daily tho-
row them, up to the knees. The
Germanes also are very skilfull
swimmers, using to wash only in
Rivers. In these difficult places
beganne the battell, the Roman
Emperor himselfe most bravely
giving the onfet. For being come
to a mighty great Meare or Ma-
rish, whither the Germanes had
fled, the Romans fearing to fol-
low them; *Maximin* was the first
that

that entred with his horse: where
plunging above the horse-belly, A terrible
battell in a
Poole.
he made a great slaughter of the
Barbarians that very stoutly re-
sisted. Whereat the Soldiers be-
ing abash't lest they should seeme
to betray their Emperour, leapt
boldly into the Mear, where ma-
ny on both sides were slain (but
the Barbarians were almost cut of)
the *Romane* prince most valiantly
fighting in person: insomuch that
the poole being fild up with car-
casses, and the fennes all purpled
with bloud, it represented a gast-
ly & hideous sight of a sea-fight
(as it were) on land. This battel
and his other Martiall acts, the
Emperour did not onely certify
by Letters to the Roman Senate
and People, but cōmanded also
the Portrait of them (at large) to
be publikly set before the Coun-
cel-house, that the *Romans* might
not onely heare, but behold also
his

his brave Exployts. Which Table (with his other honours) was afterward taken downe by the Senat. Other skirmishes there were, in all which, hee fought in the head of his troopes, and with his own hands hewed out his honour. Winter approaching, he retreated (with many prisoners, and mighty booties) into *Pannonia*. Where, in *Sirmium* (the greatest City of that Countrey) he lay in Garrison, preparing for a *Spring War*; and often saying (which he seemed to intend) that he would exterminate and subdue all the Barbarous nations of *Germany* to the very Ocean. Such a famous Warriour hee was ! And surely great Glory he had got, had hee not beene more bloody and cruell to his owne subjects than to the enemies. For what thanks to kill Barbarians, if far more were murthered in *Rome* it selfe.

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